THE #1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING SERIES
THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS
JUSTICE LEAGUE
VOLUME 4 THE GRID
"A TENSE THRILLER THAT WASTES NO TIME SINKING ITS TEETH INTO THE JUICY STORY POINTS..."
— IGN
GEOFF JOHNS IVAN REIS JOE PRADO

JUSTICE
LEAGUE
VOLUME 4 THE GRID

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VOLUME 4
THE GRID

GEOFF **JOHNS** writer

IVAN **REIS** JOE **PRADO** JESUS **SAIZ** OCLAIR **ALBERT**
JONATHAN **GLAPION** ZANDER **CANNON** GENE **HA**
ANDRES **GUINALDO** ROB **HUNTER** EBER **FERRIERA** artists

ROD **REIS** JEROMY **COX** ART **LYONS** **HI-FI** colorists

DEZI **SIENTY** NICK J. **NAPOLITANO** letterers

IVAN **REIS**, JOE **PRADO** & ROD **REIS**
collection cover artists

SUPERMAN created by JERRY **SIEGEL** & JOE **SHUSTER**
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family

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JUSTICE LEAGUE VOLUME 4: THE GRID

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DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
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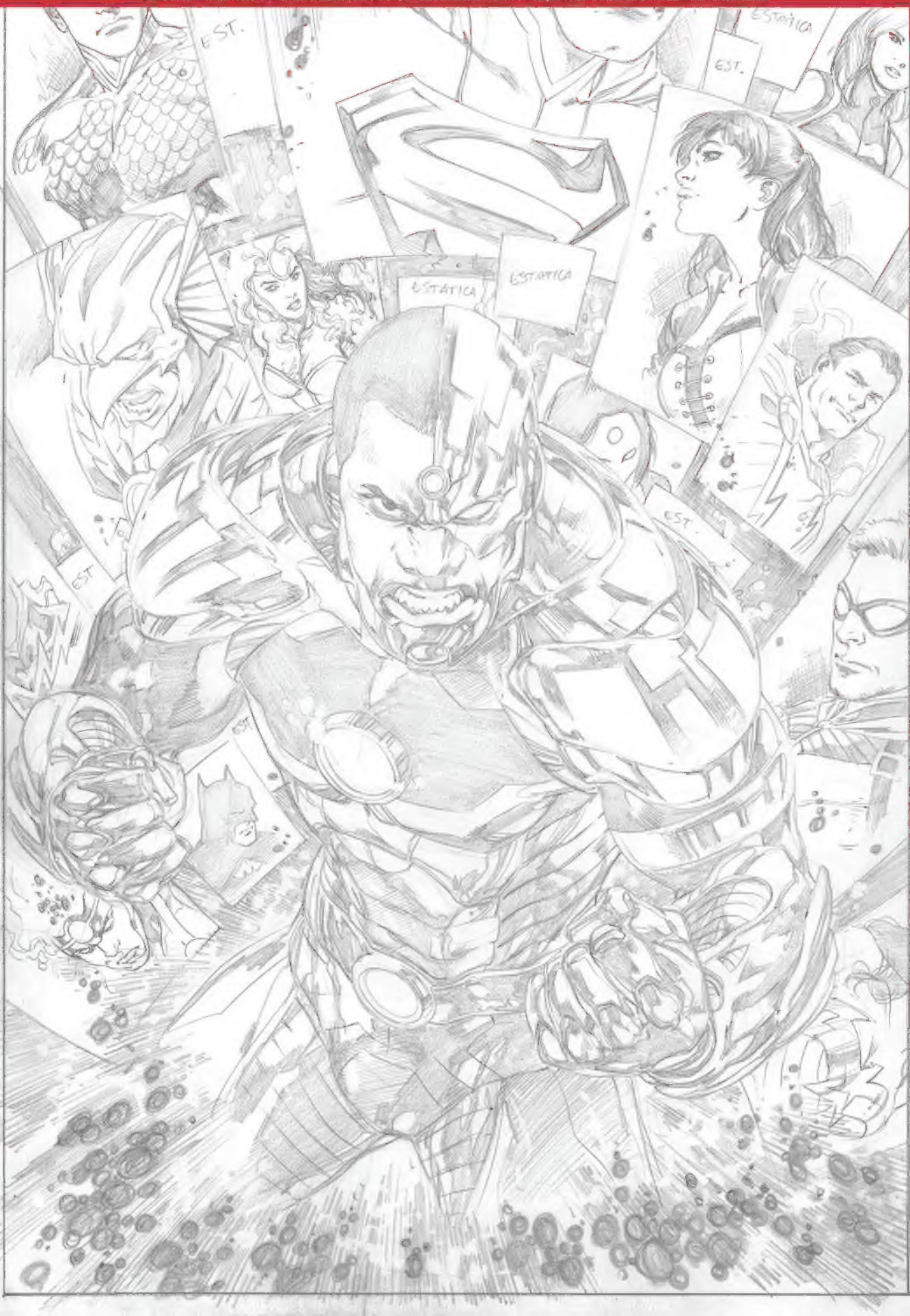
THE GRID

GEOFF JOHNS writer JESUS SAIZ artist JEROMY COX colorist IVAN REIS, JOE PRADO and ROD REIS cover artists



PITTSBURGH HIGH.
IF WE'RE GOING TO GET INTO THE SAME COLLEGE SO WE CAN KEEP UP OUR CAREER AS *FIRESTORM*, YOU NEED TO GET YOUR GRADES UP.
RIGHT, JASON. TOTALLY RIGHT.
BUT... I'VE SPENT MOST OF THE AFTERNOON TUTORING YOU ON MATH AND I, UM, WELL, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD TUTOR ME ON SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW *BLYTHE BONNER*, RIGHT?
WE'RE WORKING ON THIS PROJECT TOGETHER FOR THE COMPUTER SCIENCE FAIR, WHICH BY THE WAY YOU HAVE TO SHOW UP FOR.
I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE AND I WOULD HIT IT OFF, UH, SOCIALLY, SO I NEED *YOUR* ADVICE FOR ONCE.
I WANT TO ASK HER OUT.
UM. SURE. SOUNDS GOOD. TOTALLY GREAT, JACE.
WHAT?
I KNEW IT!
HEY!
YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE GAME, AREN'T YOU?
FOR *TWO* REASONS: *ONE*--BECAUSE IT'S THE *PLAYOFFS*, AND "*B*"--BECAUSE YOU'RE SO *BORING*.
YOU DON'T GET THE MINIMUM TEST SCORES AND I'M GOING TO BE *STUCK* FOLLOWING YOU TO *COMMUNITY COLLEGE*.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
THERE IS IF YOU WANT TO BE A PHYSICIST.
WE CAN HELP YOU, JASON.
YEET
YOU SEE THAT?
WE CAN HELP YOU TOO, RONNIE.
IF YOU HELP US.

GOTHA BUS BANKING
YOUR CRY IS A WASTE OF BREATH, CANARY.

SNAKES DON'T HAVE EARS.

FWARSH
AAHH!

KRAK

WAS THAT YOU, BATGIRL?
WHAT HAPPENED?
OKAY, UH...
A BILLBOARD JUST HELPED ME TAKE OUT COPPERHEAD.

HELLO
BLACK CANARY
AND NOW IT'S TALKING TO ME.

SAN FRANCISCO.
I HOPE YOU HAD AS MUCH FUN AS I DID, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU EXPECT, JOHN?
GREAT SHOW, ZEE!
YES, I'M MAD.
YOU TELL ME THE JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK--WELL, THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL US--YOU TELL ME THAT THIS TEAM, EXCUSE ME, YOUR TEAM NO LONGER REQUIRES MY SERVICES WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION.
I'M TIRED OF YOU TREATING EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY ME, LIKE PAWNS IN YOUR TWISTED GAME OF LIFE.
NO. I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS IN PERSON.
VEET

WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU.
NOW THAT'S SOME TRICK.

Aquaman
Batman
Cyborg
The Flash
Superman
Wonder Woman
WE'RE GOING TO NEED MORE CHAIRS.

HOW MANY MORE?
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW BIG WE THINK THE LEAGUE NEEDS TO BE.
AND THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT WE GO UP AGAINST, BE IT THE CHEETAH OR ATLANTIS. WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN COMMITMENTS SO I SUGGEST WE FIND SOME NEW MEMBERS WHO ARE WILLING TO DEDICATE TO THE LEAGUE *FULL TIME.*
YOU AND VICTOR HAVE OBVIOUSLY DISCUSSED EXPANDING THE TEAM WITHOUT US, BRUCE.
IT WASN'T INTENTIONAL, DIANA. THE CONVERSATION EVOLVED OUT OF ADDRESSING VIC'S STRUGGLE WITH ATTENTION.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A PROBLEM WITH THAT. ME *TOO.* SOMETIMES WHEN BATMAN DRONES ON, MY SPEED KICKS IN AND IT'S LIKE LISTENING... TO...EVERY...WORD...IN... SLOW...MOTION.
MY ISSUE'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BARRY.
EVEN NOW, IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I HAVE TO LIVE HERE, IN THIS MEETING ROOM, AND NOT BE DISTRACTED WITH THE ENDLESS INFLUX OF DATA STREAMING INTO MY SYSTEM.
THAT'S WHY I ENJOY MY TIME UP HERE SO MUCH.
YOU'RE THE ONLY VOICES I HEAR.
WHILE VIC IGNORES MOST OF THE INFO FED INTO HIS SYSTEM, WE CREATED A SET OF *BUZZ WORDS* HE WOULDN'T OVERLOOK.
SOON I ENDED UP WITH DATABASES ON NEARLY EVERY SUPER-HUMAN ON THE PLANET.
THEIR CODE NAME, POWER SET AND HOW TO CONTACT THEM IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
I CALL IT *THE GRID.*

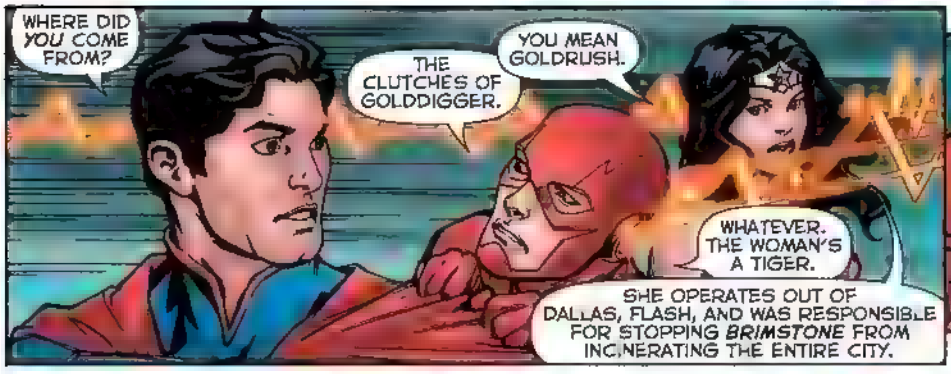
SO THAT'S HOW YOU CALLED EVERYONE TO HELP YOU OUT IN BOSTON--
--WHICH I'M SORRY I MISSED BY THE WAY, ARTHUR. I'D TRADE A CITY FULL OF GORILLAS FOR A BEACH FULL OF ATLANTEANS ANY DAY OF THE WEEK.
ARTHUR?
WHAT WERE YOU SAYING?
NOW WHO'S DISTRACTED?
THE ATLANTEANS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE STOPPING A WEAPONS DEAL OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA.
I SHOULD CALL AND MAKE SURE THEY'RE DOING IT PEACEFULLY.
THEY HAVE PHONES IN ATLANTIS?
WE'VE SPENT TIME FIGHTING ALONGSIDE SOME OF THESE CANDIDATES.
SO WHO MAKES THE CUT?
WE HAVEN'T INITIATED ANY REAL BACKGROUND CHECKS BEYOND WHAT'S ON-LINE. I NORMALLY TRY TO AVOID COGNITIVELY PROCESSING PERSONAL INFORMATION.
SOMEONE CAN ALWAYS LOOK INNOCENT OR GUILTY ON PAPER, BUT YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON ANYONE IS UNTIL YOU LOOK THEM IN THE EYES.
LET'S SELECT THE ONES WE THINK MIGHT WORK AND INVITE THEM UP HERE.
UP HERE?
IT'LL BE FUN.

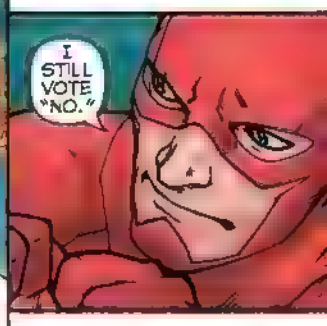
Black Canary
Black Lightning
Blue Devil
Element Woman
Firestorm
Goldrush
Nightwing
Platinum
Vixen
Zatanna
SURE, I'VE DREAMT ABOUT BEING A PART OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, SUPERMAN. WHO HASN'T?
HEH... I'D LOVE A CHANCE TO KICK SOME ASS WITH YOU GUYS!
WHAT?
YES. I'LL WATCH MY LANGUAGE IN FRONT OF SUPERMAN.
WHO'S STARING AT ME?
HAHAHAHA
HE WAS RIDICULOUS, WASN'T HE, AQUAMAN? "THE FLYING FISH!"
I'M NOT SURE WHAT FRIGHTENED HIM MORE, VIXEN. THE SHARKS, YOU--
--OR THE DUCKS.
HA.
GLAD YOU HAD TO BE THERE.
SO HOW DO YOU AND JASON WORK TOGETHER?
OH, UH PERFECTLY. WE'RE TOTALLY IN SYNC.
HI, FIRESTORM. I LOVE YOUR HAIR. IT'S SO FIERY!
HOW DID YOU GET YOUR POWERS? I WON MINE IN MY SECOND DIVORCE. HE TOOK THE DOGS.
...WHAT KIND OF DOGS WERE THEY?
IT'S REALLY A GENEROUS OFFER, BATMAN, BUT I ALREADY WORK WITH A PARTNER: BLUE DEVIL.
IF IT'S THE BOTH OF US, MAYBE I COULD CONSIDER IT
IT'S NICE TO BE AROUND PROFESSIONALS FOR ONCE, CANARY
UNTIL HAWKMAN SHOWS UP

I AM PLAT NUM.
HI, PLATINUM. NIGHTWING.
I AM THE PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, BUILT TO OPERATE IN SITUATIONS TOO DANGEROUS OR TOXIC TO HUMANS.
I AM PLATINUM.
SHE'S STILL IN THE EARLY STAGES OF INCEPTION, VICTOR, BUT DOCTOR MAGNUS ASSURED ME SHE WAS READY FOR TEST TRIALS.
ARE YOU SURE PLATINUM'S AN A.I. AND NOT A PROGRAMMED ROBOT, DAD? SHE'S ACTING A LITTLE STRANGE.
I'M HAPPY TO BE AVAILABLE IF YOU REALLY NEED ME, SUPERMAN, BUT IT'S TIME I GOT MY OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. I'VE LET MY FATHER'S CASE RUN COLD FOR TOO LONG.
YOU STILL DON'T THINK HIS DEATH WAS AN ACCIDENT.
I KNOW IT WASN'T.
THEN CONSIDER ME ON CALL FOR YOU TOO.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, JEFF? THIS COULD BE COOL, RIGHT?
YOU AND ME AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
I THINK YOU AND ME IS ENOUGH RIGHT NOW, DANNY.
YOU'RE SAYING THAT BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT ME, DO THEY? DID YOU TELL THEM I'M IN TOTAL CONTROL OF THIS DEMON SUIT?
WE DO WANT YOU, DANIEL. BOTH OF YOU.
BUT THE SCHOOLS ARE STILL A MESS, DANNY. THOSE KIDS NEED US. LEAVE THE BIG PICTURE TO THE LEAGUE.
I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WAS AN EMERGENCY.
NIGHTWING--
NO.
AQUAMAN, DO YOU HEAR THAT?
A FAINT HEARTBEAT.
A SMALL ONE.
I AM PLAT NUM.

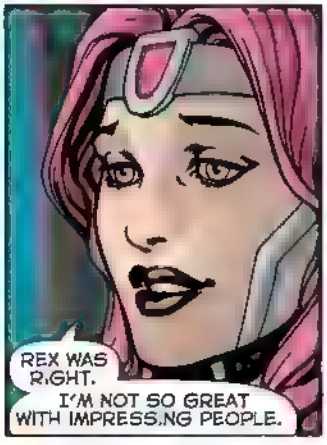
I AM THE PROPERTY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, BUILT TO OPERATE IN SITUATIONS TOO DANGEROUS OR TOXIC TO HUMANS.
WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATIONAL TASK, ROBOT?
I'M NOT ANYONE'S ROBOT, HONEY.

THIS GOLDEN COVER IS JUST MY HARD CANDY SHELL.
HEY--!
BUT I'VE GOT A SWEET CENTER.
Y'ALL EVER BEEN MARRIED, FLASH?


WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
THE CLUTCHES OF GOLDDIGGER.
YOU MEAN GOLDRUSH.
WHATEVER. THE WOMAN'S A TIGER.
SHE OPERATES OUT OF DALLAS, FLASH, AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR STOPPING BRIMSTONE FROM INCINERATING THE ENTIRE CITY.


I STILL VOTE "NO."

THERE ARE SO MANY AMAZING PEOPLE HERE LIKE YOU, FIRESTORM, AND I KNOW THEY WON'T PICK US ALL.
BUT IF THEY PICKED ME, OH, IT'D BE A DREAM. IF THEY DON'T, I UNDERSTAND.


REX WAS RIGHT.
I'M NOT SO GREAT WITH IMPRESSING PEOPLE.

I AM PLATINUM.
OH, HEY.
HI!
I AM...THE PROPERTY...I...

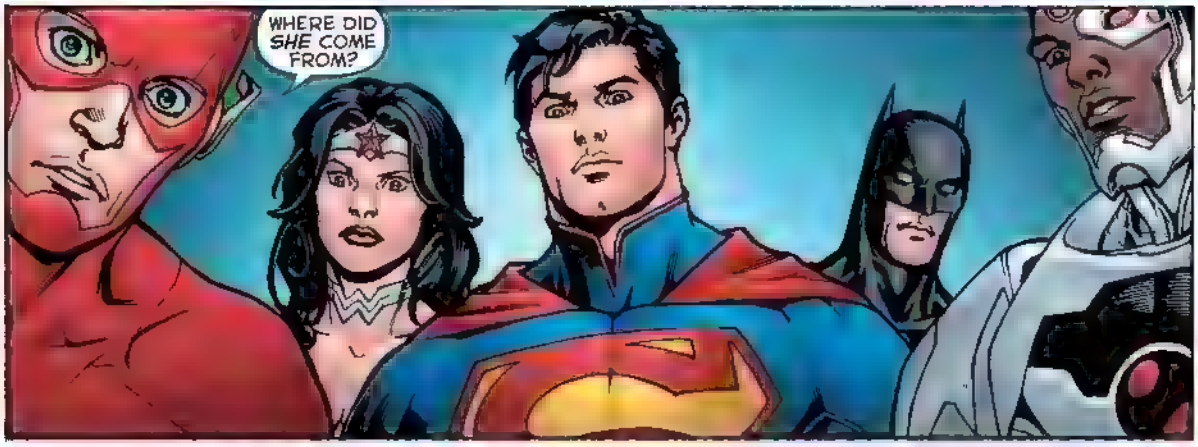
DON'T WANT TO BE A SOLDIER.
HEY! LET GO!
WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH WILL?
SHE'S STRONGER THAN SHE LOOKS.
SO AM I.
THOOM

DOCTOR MAGNUS?! I ASSUME YOU'RE GETTING THESE READINGS DOWN THERE.
YES, CYBORG, UNFORTUNATELY. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN PREMATURE AND THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN TO PROJECT: METAL MEN. I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SENT HER. I'M JUST SO DESPERATE TO--
I'M TRYING TO CONNECT WITH PLATINUM'S SYSTEM, BUT I CAN'T.
SHE'S OFF-LINE, CYBORG. I WANTED HER TO FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY.
WHERE IS SHE?
"WHERE IS DOCTOR WILL MAGNUS?!"
HER BODY IS MADE UP OF SOLID PLATINUM THAT'S BEING CONTROLLED AND MANIPULATED BY HER RESPONSOMETER.
HER WHAT?
HER BRAIN. IT'S EXTREMELY FRAGILE AND IF IT'S DESTROYED... I CAN'T REBUILD HER.
PLEASE. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT YOU DON'T HARM THAT DEVICE.

HER OUTER BODY--THE PLATINUM--IF THERE'S A WAY TO SEPARATE IT FROM THE RESPONSOMETER--
I HAVE AN IDEA.
FIRESTORM!
RONNIE, CYBORG'S CALLING FOR US!
HUH? YEAH?
PLATINUM, I KNOW I LOOK SCARY, BUT I'M YOUR FRIEND.
I DON'T KNOW YOU.
MY NAME IS EMILY.
HOW ACCURATE ARE YOU W TH YOUR POWERS?
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT!
I'M NOT LYING, JASON!

I WANT TO SEE WILL.
KRK
I WANT TO GO HOME
REMEMBER CYBORG SAID ONLY THE PLATINUM BODY CHANGES THERE'S SOMETHING DELICATE INSIDE THAT WE HAVE TO PROTECT.
DO NOT SCREW THIS UP, RONNIE.
JUST MAKE SURE I DON'T.
PLATINUM TO WATER--COMIN' RIGHT UP!
FFZZZAMMM
THAT'S IT.
JUST A LITTLE MORE.
WAIT--!
I LIKED HER.
THE RESPONSOMETER! IT'S GOING TO--


WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?

HI, GUYS.
IS IT TOO LATE FOR TRYOUTS?

THE ATOM'S REAL NAME IS RHONDA PINEDA.
I INVITED HER, BUT I WASN'T SURE SHE'D SHOW. SHE'S A LITTLE SHY.
WHO IS SHE?
AN UNSUNG HERO.
SOMETHING SHUT DOWN ONE OF ATLANTIS'S BOMBS IN BOSTON, FLASH. IT TOOK ME A FEW DAYS TO SORT THROUGH THE SECURITY CAMERAS AND THE SAT FEEDS. I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HER AT FIRST.
BUT SHE WAS THERE ON THE BATTLEFIELD WITH US.
"I TRACKED HER DOWN AT IVY UNIVERSITY."
THANKS FOR THE HELP IN BOSTON.
THE ATOM...
...ELEMENT WOMAN...
...AND FIRESTORM.
THAT ROBOT LADY WAS *WAY* OUT OF CONTROL. THAT'S THE LAST TIME WE DO THAT MAGNUS ANY FAVORS.
THERE'S NOT A WHOLE LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THESE THREE, BUT THEY'RE READY TO COMMIT TO THE LEAGUE *FULL TIME.*
VZZTKSSHHK
OUR MONITORS ARE OUT. SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WHAT IS IT, VIC?
DURING THE FIGHT WITH PLATINUM, SOMEONE SENT EVERY ONE OF OUR CASE FILES FROM OUR SECURE SERVER TO EARTH. OUR ENTIRE *FIVE-YEAR HISTORY* WAS *STOLEN* FROM US.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING--?
I'M SAYING *SOMEONE* THAT WAS HERE *HACKED* OUR SYSTEM SOMEHOW, FLASH. AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TRYING TO COVER THEIR TRACKS.
IN FACT, THEY LEFT A MESSAGE FOR ME TO FIND.
WHAT IS IT?
BEEP

HAVE A NICE DAY
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S PLAYING MY OWN GAME AGAINST US.

WAR GAMES

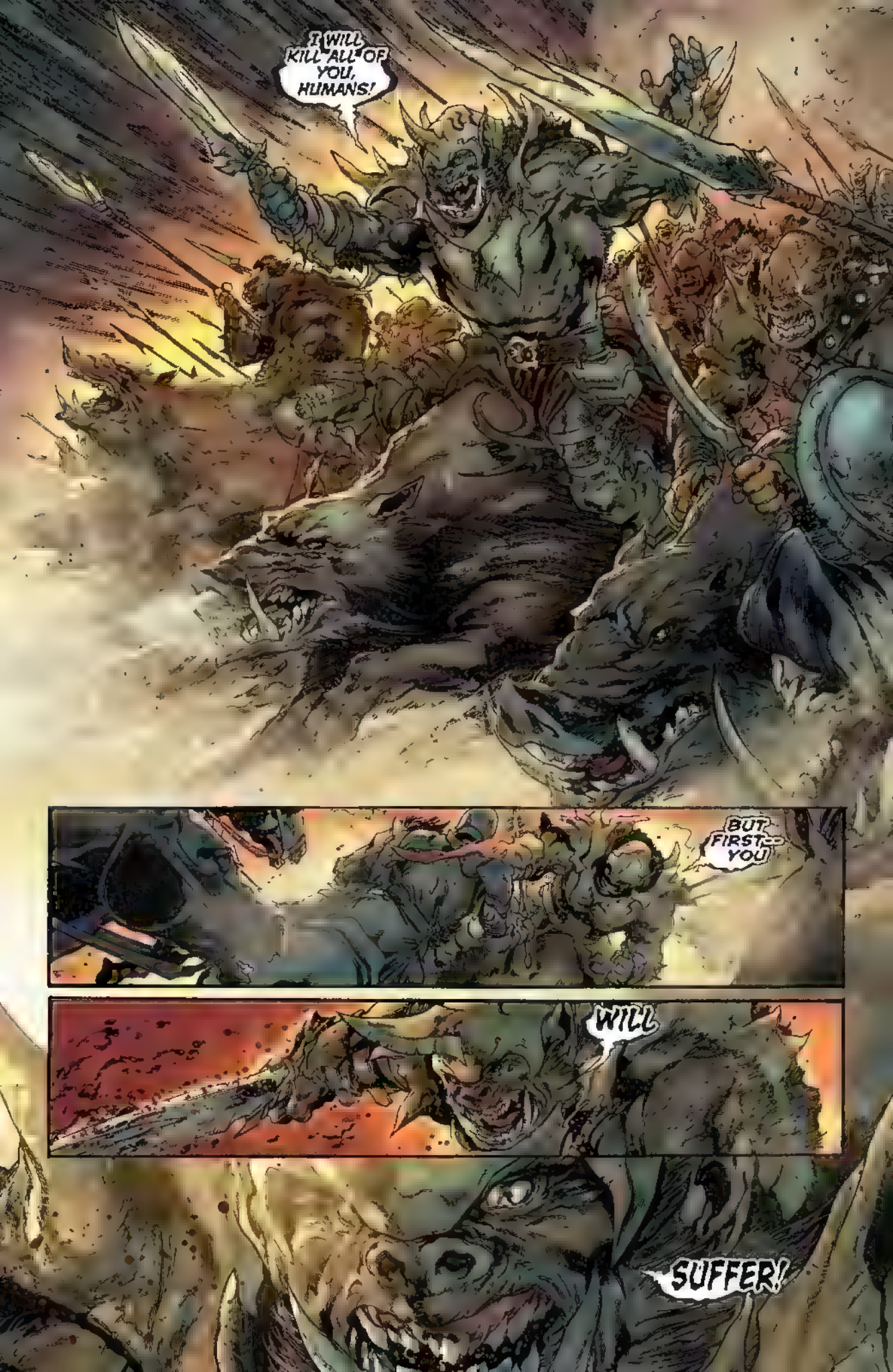
GEOFF JOHNS, TIE-IN IVAN REIS, PENCILLER JOE PRADO, OCLAIR ALBERT & JONATHAN GLAPION, INKERS
ROD REIS colorist IVAN REIS, JOE PRADO and ROD REIS cover artists

BRUCE ISN'T GOING TO LIKE THIS.
HE DIDN'T LIKE IT WHEN I PUT YOUR UNIFORM UP EITHER, JASON, BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO SIMPLY BURY THE PAIN AND SHUT HIMSELF OFF FROM EVERYONE.
THIS IS DIFFERENT. DAMIAN DIED, ALFRED. BATMAN'S SON DIED.
I WAS JUST ANOTHER ROBIN.
THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, JASON. YOU STILL SEE YOURSELF AS "ANOTHER" ROBIN--
--BUT YOU WERE AS MUCH A SON TO BRUCE AS DAMIAN WAS. YOU WERE AS MUCH A SON TO ME. WHEN WE THOUGHT THE JOKER KILLED YOU... WE WERE ALL...
...HE WAS SO YOUNG.
...OH, GOD...
ALFRED...
YOU NEED TO, I DON'T KNOW, HAVE SOME TEA OR SOMETHING. GET SOME REST, OKAY?
LOOK...
...I'M GOING TO MISS HIM TOO.
KRRAKZZZTTTTT

JASON?!
WHO ARE YOU?
HOW DID YOU GET IN--?
KK!
HN.
WHOEVER YOU ARE, BATMAN WILL FIND YOU.
I WOULD HOPE SO.
KRAKSH

ENTRANCE AUTHORIZED
KLANK
UCE!

RETINAL SCAN COMPLETE AND ACCEPTED
"I'LL KILL YOU!"


I WILL KILL ALL OF YOU, HUMANS!
BUT FIRST-- YOU
WILL
SUFFER!

ALL RIGHT, GUYS-- ATTACK!!

PADING-PA-LA-HING-PADING
IT CAN'T BE THAT TIME ALREADY!
IT IS!
GUYS, I'M SORRY, BUT I'VE GOT TO GO.
WHAT? YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN APE-ORC BATTLE!
AND WE'RE HEADING INTO THE BLACKROCK VALLEY SO ARNOLD CAN GET THE CLOAK OF BALANCE!
THE FIRE BEASTS WILL BE WAITING FOR US!
I REALLY WISH I COULD STAY, BUT I CAN'T!
AT LEAST LEAVE US THE FROST BLADE!
THIS THING TOOK ME FOREVER TO GET! I...I'M SORRY!
YOU TRAITOR!

"NOW WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!"
GEEZ.
WHAT A DRAMA QUEEN.
GAME SAVED
GUILD BATTLES OFF LINE
ALL RIGHT, RHONDA, CHECK YOURSELF BEFORE YA WRECK YOURSELF. THIS IS IT. THIS IS THE BIG TIME.
THIS IS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
SWEET.
22,300 MILES ABOVE EARTH.
THE WATCHTOWER.
HELLO?
IS ANYONE ELSE HERE?
I AM NOT ASKING HIM TO TEACH ME THAT.

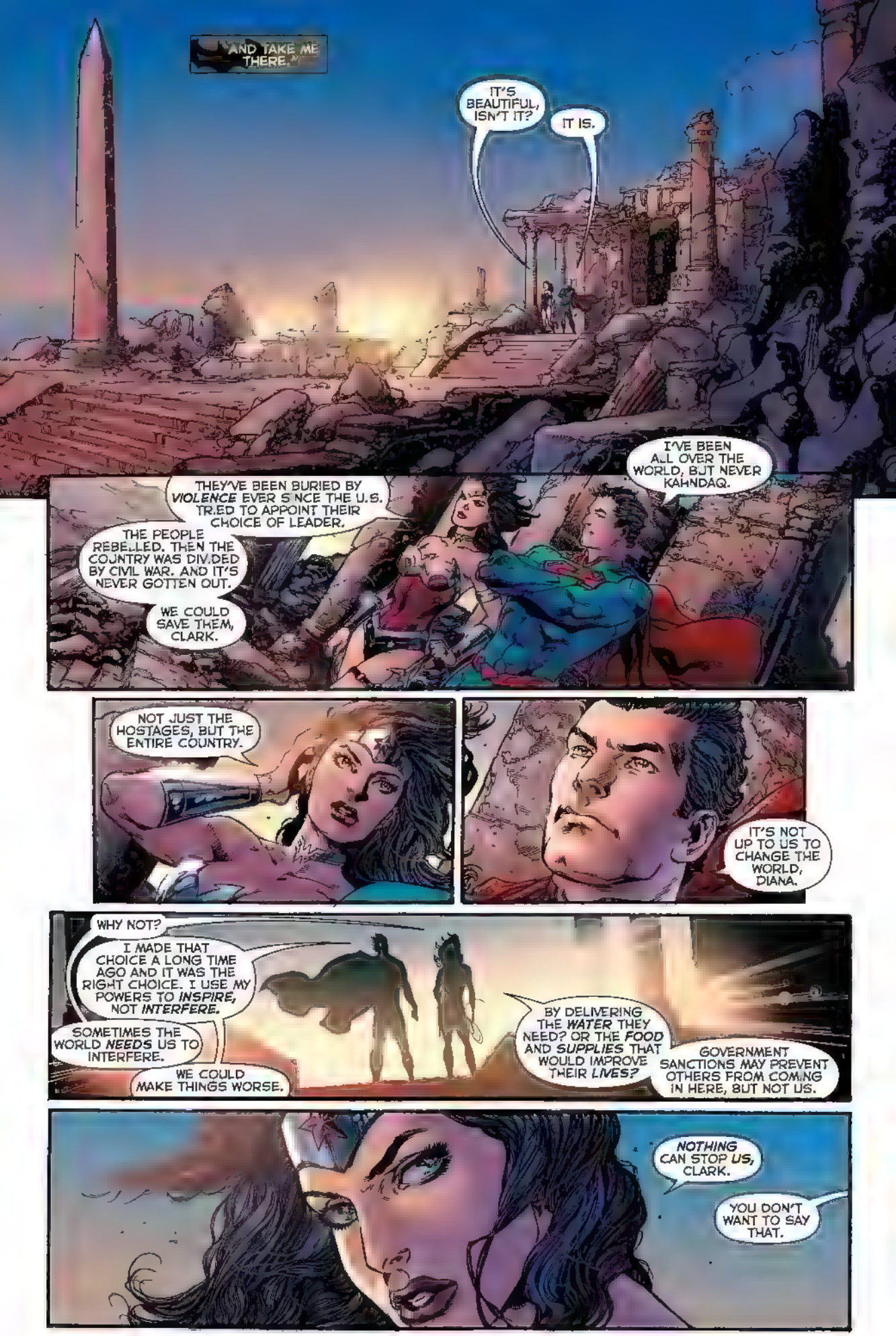
BECAUSE WHY DO WE NEED TO LEARN MARTIAL ARTS OR WHATEVER IT IS HE DOES? THAT'S BATMAN'S THING, JASON.
FIRESTORM'S ALL ABOUT PHYSICS, ELEMENTS AND ALL THAT CRAP.
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEANT.
GET MY FEET OFF THE TABLE? YOU SOUND LIKE MY MOM. AGAIN.
EMBARRASS YOU?
UM, EXCUSE ME.
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO, FIRESTORM?
OH, UH, NO ONE IMPORTANT, ATOM.
ARE WE THE ONLY ONES HERE?
SO FAR, YEAH. IT'S JUST US.
MAYBE THEY FORGOT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET TO GET OUR OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION TODAY.
I THOUGHT SUPERMAN NEVER FORGOT ANYTHING. ISN'T THAT ONE OF HIS SUPER-POWERS?
I'M NOT SURE.
WELL, WHEREVER THEY ARE--

I'M SURE THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
HARKA!
...INTENSIFIED ON DAY THREE OF THE STANDOFF BETWEEN THE KAHNDAQI MILITARY AND THE SONS OF ADAM.
THE KAHNDAQ GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DENY REQUESTS BY THE U.S. TO ENTER THE COUNTRY AND CONFRONT THE SONS OF ADAM, THE TERRORIST GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT BOMBINGS OF ITS EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA.
<"THEY AREN'T GOING TO RELEASE OUR BROTHERS FROM THEIR PRISONS. THEY REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE!">
<THEN WE KILL ONE OF THE HOSTAGES TO SHOW THEM WE WON'T NEGOTIATE EITHER.>
<KAHNDAQ BELONGS IN THE HANDS OF THE SONS OF ADAM, NOT ITS PUPPETEERS!>
<GET UP!>
<HARKA, WAIT!>
<WHAT?>
<WE HAD EIGHT HOSTAGES.>
<SO?>
<WHY ARE THERE NOW TEN?>
<WHAT IS THIS?>
<WHO ARE YOU?>

AAAHHH!
<WHAT IS IT?!>
<HELP.>
<JUSTICE.>
"HE'LL NEVER CHANGE."

THE OLD MAN GETS HIS HEAD SMASHED INTO A GLASS CASE AND HE'S STILL WORRIED ABOUT MAKING US *LUNCH.*
FINALLY GOT HIM TO LIE DOWN AND TAKE A BREATHER THOUGH.
GOOD.
BRUCE, I...
I SHOULD'VE HEARD THEM COME IN.
I KNOW YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED. I'M DISAPPOINTED IN MYSELF--
JASON.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE BOTH OKAY.
GO WATCH OVER ALFRED. THE LEAGUE WILL HELP ME FIND OUT WHO ATTACKED YOU BOTH.
WHOEVER IT WAS, HE WAS WEARING A SUIT THAT GAVE OFF AN *ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.* HE'S NOTHING BUT A *BLUR* ON THE SECURITY CAMERAS. I'VE SCANNED FOR ANY TRACE OF *DNA*--
AND, CYBORG?
THERE'S *NONE.*
COULD IT HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF ANDROID?
PRESSURE SENSORS ON THE FLOOR INDICATE THE INTRUDER WEIGHED IN AT ONLY ABOUT 180 POUNDS.
WHOEVER IT WAS, THEY WERE PROBABLY HUMAN.

THEY DIDN'T GET IN THROUGH THE RIVERS.
EVEN IF THEY COULD BREATHE UNDERWATER, THE CURRENTS WOULD'VE SWEPT THEM AWAY.
SO WE DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE OR HOW THEY GOT IN.
AND THERE'S NO RESIDUAL ENERGY SIGNATURE FROM ANY RECORDED TELEPORTATION DEVICE.
HOW ABOUT *WHY?* THEY OBVIOUSLY KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BRUCE. THEY CAME HERE FOR SOMETHING.
BUT THEY DIDN'T ACCESS ANY COMPUTERS.
AND THEY DIDN'T SERIOUSLY INJURE ALFRED OR JASON.
SO WHAT WOULD THEY BE AFTER?
...I'M NOT SURE.
DAMN.
WHAT IS IT, VIC?
TROUBLE, I THINK.
...CONFIRMATION THAT SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN CROSSED THE KAHNDAQI BORDER AND RESCUED THE HOSTAGES--
--MAKING THEM THE FIRST AMERICANS TO ENTER KAHNDAQ IN OVER TWENTY-SIX YEARS, SPARKING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE U.S. OF SPYING ON THE TROUBLED NATION.
LOCATE SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN, CYBORG.


AND TAKE ME THERE.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
IT IS.
I'VE BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT NEVER KAHNDAQ.
THEY'VE BEEN BURIED BY *VIOLENCE* EVER SINCE THE U.S. TRIED TO APPOINT THEIR CHOICE OF LEADER.
THE PEOPLE REBELLED. THEN THE COUNTRY WAS DIVIDED BY CIVIL WAR. AND IT'S NEVER GOTTEN OUT.
WE COULD SAVE THEM, CLARK.
NOT JUST THE HOSTAGES, BUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.
IT'S NOT UP TO US TO CHANGE THE WORLD, DIANA.
WHY NOT?
I MADE THAT CHOICE A LONG TIME AGO AND IT WAS THE RIGHT CHOICE. I USE MY POWERS TO *INSPIRE*, NOT *INTERFERE*.
SOMETIMES THE WORLD *NEEDS* US TO INTERFERE.
WE COULD MAKE THINGS WORSE.
BY DELIVERING THE *WATER* THEY NEED? OR THE *FOOD* AND *SUPPLIES* THAT WOULD IMPROVE THEIR *LIVES*?
GOVERNMENT SANCTIONS MAY PREVENT OTHERS FROM COMING IN HERE, BUT NOT US.
NOTHING CAN STOP *US*, CLARK.
YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY THAT.

SUPER-VILLAINS SAY THAT, DIANA.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANT.
I DO, CLARK, BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULDN'T.
HOW DID YOU GET HERE, BRUCE?
AND WITHOUT OUR HEARING YOU?
CYBORG. HE HAS A NEW SILENT MODE IN HIS RECENT UPGRADE.
I ASKED VIC TO GIVE ME SOME SPACE AND TIME WITH YOU TWO BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THINGS THAT MIGHT GET UNCOMFORTABLE.
YOU KICKED A HORNETS' NEST TODAY. KAHNDAQ IS THREATENING TO RETALIATE AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS.
AMERICANS HAVE BEEN BANNED FROM ENTERING KAHNDAQ FOR DECADES. THE POLITICS--
WOULD'VE COST LIVES. WE HAD NO CHOICE.
YOU DID HAVE A CHOICE, DIANA.
YOU AND CLARK COULD'VE DONE THIS QUIETLY.
WERE YOU PLANNING A STEALTH MISSION TO GO IN AND SAVE THEM?
IF YOU HAD COME TO ME WITH THIS, I WOULD HAVE. INSTEAD WE'VE GOT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE ONCE AGAIN CAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC EYE IN A BAD WAY.
THE MORE THE WORLD DISTRUSTS US, THE HARDER IT'S GOING TO BE TO GET THE JOB DONE.
IT WASN'T THE JUSTICE LEAGUE THAT CAME HERE, IT WAS DIANA AND I.

WHEN YOU AND SHE ARE *TOGETHER*, CLARK, YOU REPRESENT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
YOU CANNOT DO THIS TO US.
YOU KNOW WE'D *NEVER* DO ANYTHING TO *PURPOSELY* UPSET YOU, BRUCE. WE'RE YOUR *FRIENDS*.
THEN WE CAN BE *HONEST* WITH ONE ANOTHER, CAN'T WE, CLARK?
I KNOW YOU AND DIANA HAVE BEEN SEEING ONE ANOTHER OUTSIDE OF THE TEAM.
DOES THE REST OF THE TEAM KNOW?
NOT YET, THOUGH I'D ASSUME THEY'VE SUSPECTED SINCE YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING SO MUCH TIME WITH ONE ANOTHER.
WE CONNECTED, BRUCE. IT JUST HAPPENED.

I'M HAPPY THAT YOU BOTH...FOUND SOMETHING TOGETHER.
YOU JUST NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE REST OF THE WORLD--THE WORLD WHO DOESN'T KNOW YOU LIKE I DO--WILL REACT.
YOU'RE THE TWO MOST POWERFUL BEINGS ON EARTH.
THEY'RE GOING TO BE GUNNING FOR YOU.
WHO WILL?
WHOEVER'S AFRAID OF WHAT YOU TWO COULD DO.
"SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE BATCAVE LAST NIGHT
"AND THEY DIDN'T DO IT TO GET AT ME, SUPERMAN.
"THEY DID IT TO GET TO YOU."
WHAT'S IN THE BATCAVE THAT CAN HURT CLARK?
WHAT DID YOU DO, BRUCE?
"AREN'T YOU WORRIED?"

WE REALLY SHOULDN'T BE *EXPLORING* ON OUR OWN, FIRESTORM.
NO, SHE'S *NOT* RIGHT.
UM, WHAT?
LOOK, WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALMOST AN *HOUR* AND I'M *STARVING.* IF I COULD TRANSMUTE ELEMENTS INTO ORGANICS I'D ZAP ME UP A *PIZZA,* BUT I *CAN'T* SO I NEED TO FIND FOOD THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY--
--IN A *KITCHEN.*

ARE YOU SURE THERE'S A KITCHEN IN HERE? I HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN A BATHROOM.
OH! CAN YOU TRANSMUTE ONE OF THESE CLOSETS INTO A BATHROOM?
WHAT COLOR DO YOU WANT THE WALLPAPER?
PERIMETER DEFENSES OFF-LINE
YOU HEAR THAT? THE JUSTICE LEAGUE MUST BE BACK!

ATOM? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

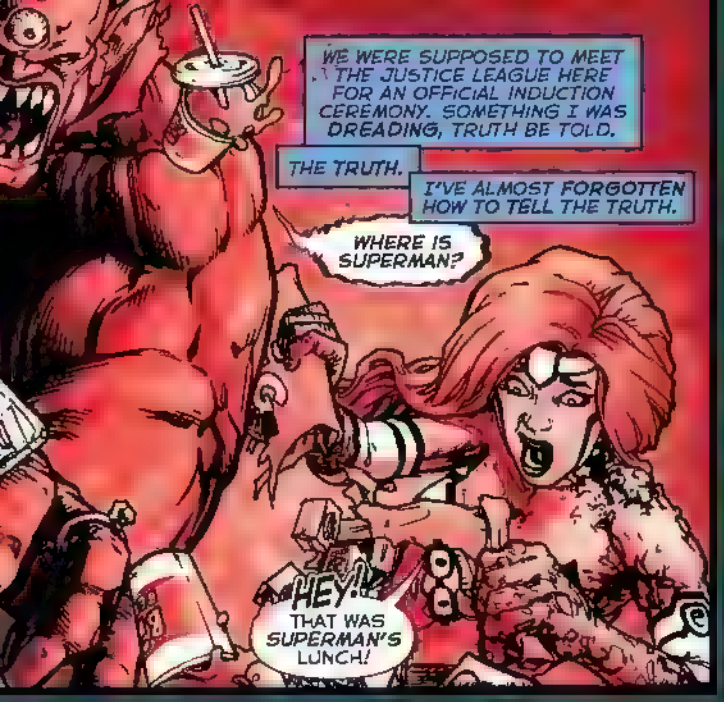
WHO ARE YOU?

AND WHERE IS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
TELL ME NOW OR I WILL TEAR IT FROM YOUR MINDS--
--BEFORE I FEAST ON YOUR FLESH.

SECRETS
GEOFF JOHNS writer ANDER CANNON layouts GENE HA ANDRES GUINALDO and JOE PRADO pencillers
GENE HA BOB HUNTER and JOE PRADO inkers ART LYON and HI-FI colorists VAN REIS JOE PRADO and RODD REIS cover

BIG BELLY
I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM.
WELCOME TO B G BELLY BURGER!
24HR DRIVE THRU
I WONDER IF SHE'S WHO THEY THINK SHE IS. THEY'VE HAD ME WATCH HER ALL WEEK.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY OUR NEW STRAWBERRY-BANANA TWISTER SHAKE TODAY?
I LOVE MIXING FLAVORS!
GIVE ME NINE OF THOSE! UM, EIGHT CHICKEN SLIDER COMBOS, PLEASE! AND A FISH SANDWICH FOR ARTHUR, I THINK!
THAT'LL BE $54.82. PLEASE PULL UP TO THE SECOND WINDOW.
HER REAL NAME IS EMILY SUNG.
BUT SHE'S GONE BY A DIFFERENT NAME EVER SINCE THE ACCIDENT.
HI! I'M ELEMENT WOMAN
I'M THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
I GUESS THEY LIKE ME.
OR.
AT LEAST I HOPE THEY DO.
SINCE THE ACCIDENT, EMILY'S BEEN ABLE TO METAMORPHOSE HERSELF INTO ANY ELEMENT FOUND IN THE HUMAN BODY.
SHE'S ALSO INCAPABLE OF LOOKING HUMAN. IN FACT, THIS IS AS CLOSE AS SHE CAN GET. SKIN LIKE CHALK. HAIR LIKE SILLY STRING. VOICE LIKE A CARTOON.
I'M NOT SURE IF HER ABILITIES MADE EMILY MENTALLY UNSTABLE, OR IF SHE WAS A FEW ELEMENTS SHY OF THE PERIODIC TABLE TO BEGIN WITH.

FIVE SECONDS AGO, ELEMENT WOMAN USED THE TELEPORTATION SYSTEM TO TRANSPORT UP TO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S WATCHTOWER SATELLITE.
SHE BROUGHT TWO BAGS OF FAST FOOD WITH HER
I'M GUESSING SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON IN HISTORY TO BRING THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SHAKES. IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT SAY THE MOST ABOUT SOMEONE
IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER.
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHERE ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?!
BIG BELLY BURGERS
IF ELEMENT WOMAN IS RECRUIT NUMBER ONE, I'M RECRUIT NUMBER TWO.
MY NAME IS RHONDA PINEDA, BUT THEY CALL ME THE ATOM.
RECRUIT NUMBER THREE IS FIRESTORM AND TECHNICALLY, HE'S RECRUIT NUMBERS THREE AND FOUR.
BEHIND THE POWERS, FIRESTORM IS ACTUALLY TWO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, A JOCK NAMED RONNIE RAYMOND AND AN HONOR STUDENT NAMED JASON RUSCH.
WHEN THESE TWO BOND TOGETHER, THEY CAN FLY, MANIPULATE ENERGY AND TRANSMUTE ANY INORGANIC ELEMENT INTO ANOTHER.
THEY FORM THE MOST DANGEROUS SUPER-HUMAN IN THE WORLD.
THAT'S A SECRET.
I HAVE A SECRET TOO.

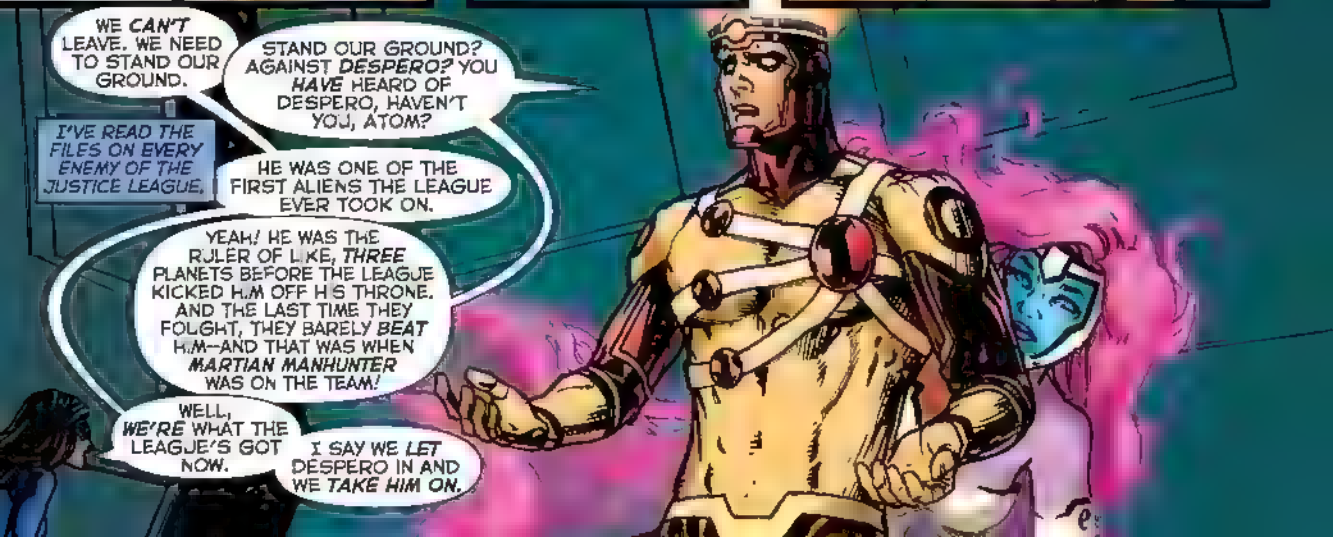

WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HERE FOR AN OFFICIAL INDUCTION CEREMONY. SOMETHING I WAS DREADING, TRUTH BE TOLD.
THE TRUTH.
I'VE ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW TO TELL THE TRUTH.
WHERE IS SUPERMAN?
HEY!
THAT WAS SUPERMAN'S LUNCH!

YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO SEE SUPERMAN, DID YOU, ELEMENT WOMAN?
I SAW HIM SUNDAY, ATOM! THE DAY WE MET!
I KNOW THAT. I MEANT ON YOUR WAY UP HERE.

I NEED THE STRONGEST ELEMENT YOU CAN THINK OF, JASON.
TITANIUM, RONNIE.

FZZZAMM
OKAY, GALS! I SEALED OFF THE BREACH AND MADE A VAULT DOOR, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO KEEP DESPERO OUT OF HERE FOREVER.
NO, WE'RE NOT EQUIPPED FOR THIS, JASON.

MY NAME'S EMILY, FIRESTORM, BUT I AGREE.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO NEXT. I CAN'T KEEP TURNING THE AIR INTO METAL UP HERE. WITH THE SYSTEMS DOWN, OUR OXYGEN'S LIMITED.
YOU COULD BREATHE ME IF YOU NEED TO.
THAT'S KINDA CREEPY, EM. I SAY WE FIND THE EXIT DOOR AND--


WE CAN'T LEAVE. WE NEED TO STAND OUR GROUND.
STAND OUR GROUND? AGAINST DESPERO? YOU HAVE HEARD OF DESPERO, HAVEN'T YOU, ATOM?
I'VE READ THE FILES ON EVERY ENEMY OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
HE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST ALIENS THE LEAGUE EVER TOOK ON.
YEAH! HE WAS THE RULER OF LIKE, THREE PLANETS BEFORE THE LEAGUE KICKED HIM OFF HIS THRONE. AND THE LAST TIME THEY FOUGHT, THEY BARELY BEAT HIM--AND THAT WAS WHEN MARTIAN MANHUNTER WAS ON THE TEAM!
WELL, WE'RE WHAT THE LEAGUE'S GOT NOW.
I SAY WE LET DESPERO IN AND WE TAKE HIM ON.

LET HIM IN? AS IF WE HAVE A CHOICE.
BOOM
YEAH, I HEARD HER, JASON.
"WE'RE JUSTICE LEAGUERS--SO LET'S ACT LIKE IT." THANKS FOR THE PEP TALK.
ZZZ
ZZZ
BOOOMM
BOOOMM
BOOOMM
THIS COULD BE USED TO MY ADVANTAGE.
IF DESPERO DOESN'T KILL US.
KRNCH
THINK FAST, JASON!
THUD
YEAH, THAT'LL WORK!

FZZAMM
ONE SNOWSTORM COMIN' UP!
SNOW?! I MISS CHRISTMAS!
YOU AND FIRESTORM KEEP DISTRACTING HIM, EMILY.
MAYBE I CAN GET IN HIS HEAD AND TR GGER AN ANEURYSM.
MY MIND ISN'T AS FALLIBLE AS OTHERS YOU MAY HAVE ENCOUN-TERED, ATOM.
OTHERS AS WEAK AS YOUR ALLIES HERE.
YES.
I CAN HEAR YOU ARGUING IN THERE, FIRESTORM.
AAHHH!
YOUR PSYCHIC BOND IS WHAT ALLOWS YOU TO TAKE APART ATOMS.
BUT THAT BOND IS ONLY AS STRONG AS YOUR RELATIONSHIP.

SO THAT BOND CAN EASILY BE BROKEN!
ZZAMMFF
AHHH!
R-RONNIE?!
FIRESTORM?!
HE'S LIKE TWO PEOPLE!
MARTIAN MANHUNTER COULD BARELY BEAT DESPERO.
MAYBE I WAS WRONG.
DAMMIT... WHERE ARE THEY, ANYWAY?

WHERE ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
YOU HAD A KRYPTONITE RING IN THE BATCAVE THAT WAS STOLEN?
BY SOMEONE WHO OBVIOUSLY KNOWS MY IDENTITY, DIANA.
AND THEY KNEW I HAD THE RING. THEY WENT RIGHT TO IT.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH KRYPTONITE, BRUCE?
I GAVE IT TO HIM, DIANA.
"YOU GAVE IT TO HIM, CLARK?"
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHO BROKE INTO THE BATCAVE.
GUYS!
WE'VE GOT MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE WATCHTOWER.
THE DEFENSE SYSTEMS ARE OFF.
YOUR PSYCHE IS ABNORMAL AND SPLINTERED AND LESS VULNERABLE TO ME THAN OTHER HUMANS.
ELEMENT WOMAN'S ROTATING THROUGH ELEMENTS, LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DESPERO CAN'T BREAK.

BUT YOUR BODY IS STILL FRAGILE.
SHE DOESN'T FIND ANYTHING.
WE NEED HELP.
PORT US UP THERE.
I CAN'T.
WHY NOT?
THE COORDINATES KEEP CHANGING.
"THE WATCHTOWER IS FALLING TO EARTH!"
YOUR MIND IS A MYSTERY, LITTLE ONE.
I CAN'T LET HIM IN. I CAN'T LET HIM SEE IT.
ARE THE PATHWAYS TOO SMALL TO READ?
NO...I CAN SEE IT.
YOU ARE HIDING SOMETHING--
DESPERO!
RRAARRR!
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY KEEP TELLING ME. YOU SAY HIS NAME AND HE ALWAYS SHOWS UP.

J'ONN J'ONZZ--
THE LAST OF THE MANHUNTERS FROM MARS.
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN YOUR PRISON, DESPERO. IT WAS SAFER.
FOR YOU.
STAY ON MARS?
YOUR DEAD WORLD HAS NOTHING TO OFFER ME, J'ONN.
DESPERO NEARLY READ MY THOUGHTS. I CAN'T RISK GROWING ANY BIGGER.

I CAME HERE TO RIP APART THE JUSTICE LEAGUE
I HAD HOPED YOU'D BE THE LAST I WOULD HAVE MY REVENGE UPON.
YOU WHO BETRAYED HIS BROTHER!
AS LONG AS I'M THIS SIZE I'M INSULATED FROM DESPERO'S TELEPATHY.
AND MANHUNTER'S.
THE WATCHTOWER'S GOING TO LAND RIGHT ON THE EAST COAST.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THAT FROM HAPPENING, SUPERMAN. IF YOU CAN'T--
I CAN, VIC.
THAT'S WHAT I DO.
BROTHERS?!
WE ARE NOT BROTHERS, DESPERO.
EARTH WOULD SAY DIFFERENT, J'ONN. THEY SEE US BOTH AS "ALIENS" INVADING THEIR WORLD.
YOU TRIED TO ENSLAVE THEM.
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THEM, J'ONN?
I KNOW. YOU ASKED ME TO BE A PART OF IT.
YET, NOW YOU DEFEND THEM? THOSE THAT KILLED YOUR WORLD?
A WORLD YOU LET DIE!
YOU LET MARS BURN!

AND MARS WILL FOREVER SMOLDER WITH THE FIRE OF YOUR FAILURE!
WE COULD HAVE RULED GALAXIES TOGETHER, J'ONN.
INSTEAD, YOU WASTE YOUR POWER ON PROTECTING THE WEAK.
IT IS A THANK-LESS EXISTENCE.
KRNCHH
IT IS FINALLY DONE.
GOOD-BYE, J'ONN.

DESPERO!
YOU BRING ME TO A CONSTRUCTION OF MARS AND BELIEVE ME SHATTERED BY ITS IMAGERY AND METAPHOR?
YOU MISTAKE ME FOR THOSE LIKE SUPERMAN AND THE GREEN LANTERN
YOU MISTAKE ME FOR SOMEONE SENTIMENTAL.
I AM THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER.
THE LAST TIME WE FACED, I WAS BOUND BY THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S RULES.
I LIMITED THE USE OF MY TELEPATHY.
BUT THIS TIME YOUR MIND IS MINE TO WALK INTO.
AARR!
IT IS MINE TO PLAY WITH.

MINE TO BREAK
RRARRRHH!
EVERY LIGHT IN THE WATCHTOWER GOES OUT.
THEN IT GOES SILENT.
UNTIL THE SOUND OF SOMETHING HITTING METAL ECHOES THROUGH THE HALLS.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ATOM?
I THINK SO, YES. WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
I REVERSED THE FLOW OF HIS SYNAPSES.
IT WILL TAKE DAYS, MAYBE WEEKS, FOR HIS MIND TO RECOVER.
TELL NO ONE I WAS HERE.
YIKES.
I HEAR MY NEW TEAMMATES RE-FORM THEMSELVES.
THEY DIDN'T SEE HIM, DID THEY?
KRANNNK
SUPERMAN?
EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

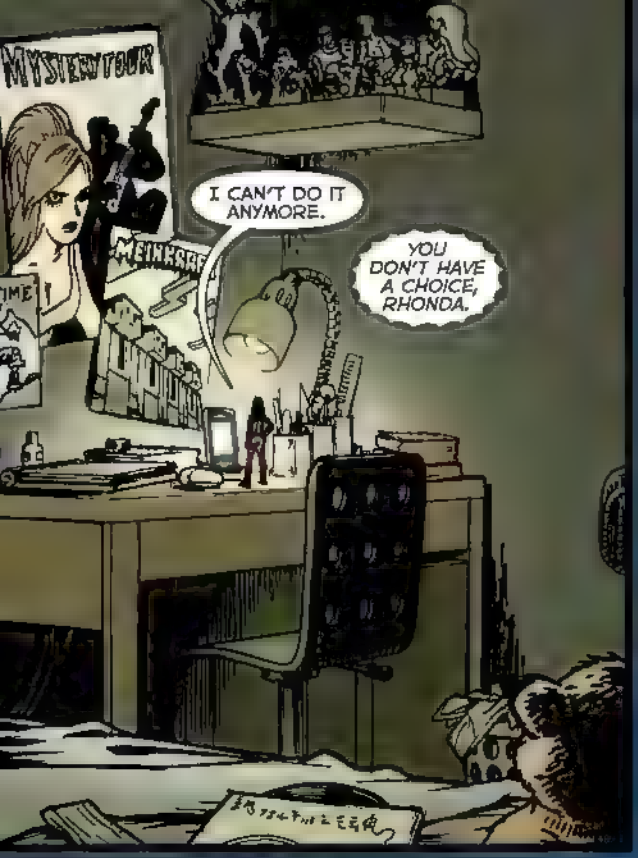
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
DESPERO? ATOM?
UH...HI, SUPERMAN?
DID YOU HANDLE HIM YOURSELF?
SO I LIE.
K.NDA?
THAT'S--NNN!
SUPERMAN? WHAT'S WRONG?
SUPERMAN?!
"WE'RE LUCKY WE GOT H M OUT OF THERE AS SOON AS WE DID."
THIS IS KRYPTONITE.

IS SUPERMAN GOING TO BE OKAY?
HE FLEW TO THE SUN TO RECHARGE, ELEMENT WOMAN. HE SHOULD BE FINE BY DAWN.
WHERE *ARE* WE, ANYWAY?
HAPPY HARBOR, RHODE ISLAND. WE NEED TO SALVAGE WHAT WE CAN FROM THE WATCHTOWER. WE'LL MOVE IT INTO THAT CAVE FOR NOW--
WHERE DID DESPERO GET *KRYPTONITE?*
FROM *ME*, ARTHUR.
FROM *YOU?*
I HAD SOME BACK IN GOTHAM. I'VE BEEN STUDYING IT...
...IN HOPES OF FINDING A *CURE* FOR SUPERMAN.
I COULD *HELP* YOU. I KNOW A *LOT* ABOUT *ELEMENTS.*
AND I'D LIKE TO HELP *TOO*, BATMAN.
I CAN *SEE* THINGS IN A WAY NO ONE ELSE CAN.
THOUGH KRYPTONITE LOOKS PRETTY *COMPLICATED.*
DESPERO WASN'T THE ONE WHO BROKE INTO THE BATCAVE, BATMAN. THE *BLUR* ON THE SECURITY CAMERAS WAS THE SIZE OF A *HUMAN.*
SOMEONE *GAVE* THE KRYPTONITE *TO* DESPERO.
AND UNLEASHED HIM ON THE LEAGUE, BUT *WHO* AND *WHY?*
THE KRYPTONITE WAS MOVED TO A *LARGER* RING FOR DESPERO, BUT...THE STONE...THERE'S SOMETHING *ABOUT* IT...
I SEE IT *TOO*, CYBORG. IT'S *MICRO-SCOPIC.*
SOMEONE CARVED OUT A *TINY SLIVER* FROM THE *KRYPTONITE.*

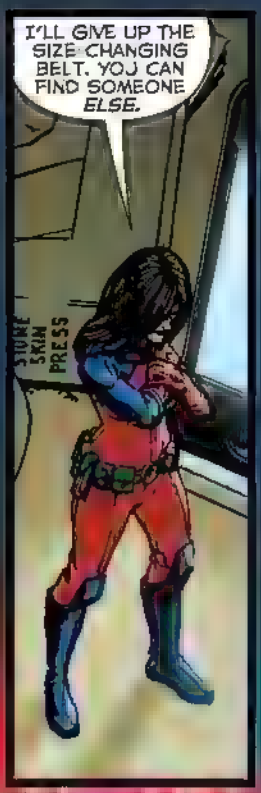
"WHY WOULD THEY DO *THAT?*"
DRAT!
THE MAZE OF *LEAD PIPES* IN THE WALLS AREN'T FUNCTIONAL, ARE THEY?
NO.
AND I ASSUME THE FILE CABINETS ARE TO KEEP *VIC* OUT?
YES.
SO WHAT *IS* THIS, BRUCE? YOUR *BATCAVE'S BATCAVE?*
IT'S A PLACE I HONESTLY DON'T LIKE TO COME TO, CLARK.
WHEN I GAVE YOU THE *KRYPTONITE RING*, I DID IT UNDER THE PRETENSE THAT UNDER *POSSESSION* OR *MIND CONTROL* I COULD PUT EVERYONE AT *RISK*.
BUT I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE RING TO INSPIRE ALL OF *THIS*.
YOU HAVE A BOX FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE?
YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU *WHY* I'M SO CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH WONDER WOMAN?
I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY DID.
OPEN IT.
CHAK

IT'S EMPTY.
BECAUSE WONDER WOMAN DOESN'T HAVE A KRYPTONITE, CLARK.
THE HARD TRUTH IS THAT IF SHE EVER CROSSES THE LINE, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD STOP HER.
YOU'RE THE BOX.
AND I'M COUNTING ON YOU TOO, CLARK. IF I EVER GET OUT OF CONTROL--
--IF I EVER CROSS THAT LINE--
--I HOPE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S THERE TO STOP ME.
HOW CAN YOU THINK THIS WAY, BRUCE? ALWAYS PREPARING FOR THE WORST?
IT'S MORE PRAGMATIC THAN HOPING FOR THE BEST.
I COULD NEVER PREPARE TO TAKE DOWN MY FRIENDS LIKE THIS.
I KNOW.

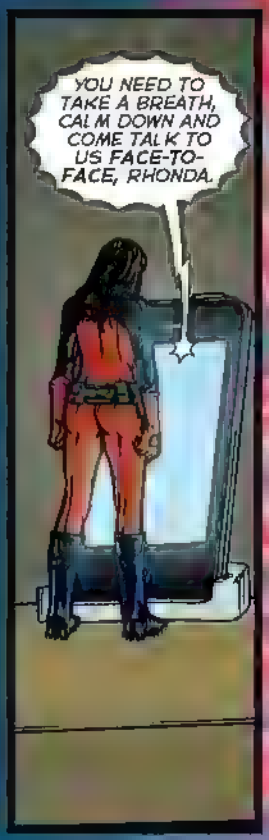
THAT'S WHY I MADE THIS.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
BRUCE...
CHAK
TAKE IT, CLARK.
AND IF YOU EVER NEED TO--IF YOU'RE TRULY MY FRIEND--YOU'LL USE IT.
"THIS IS MESSED UP."

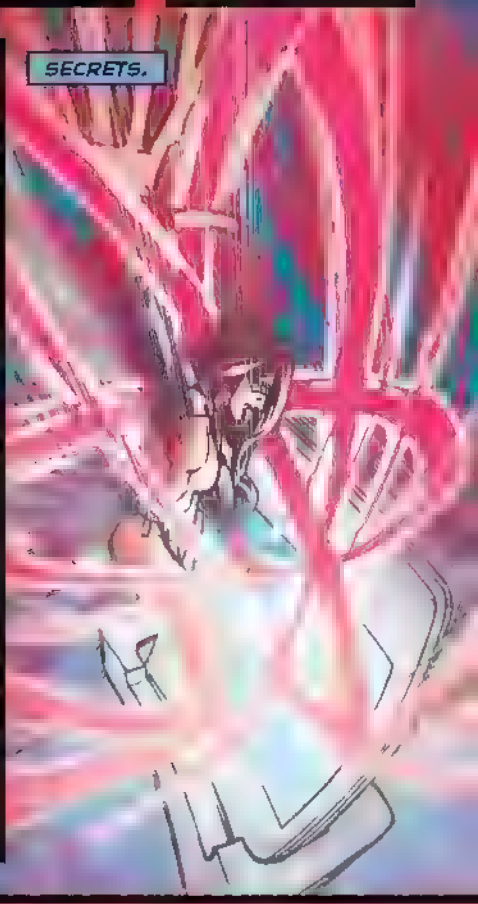

MYSTERY TOUR
I CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE.
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, RHONDA.

NO. NO, I JUST CAN'T.
HOW MUCH LONGER COULD I?

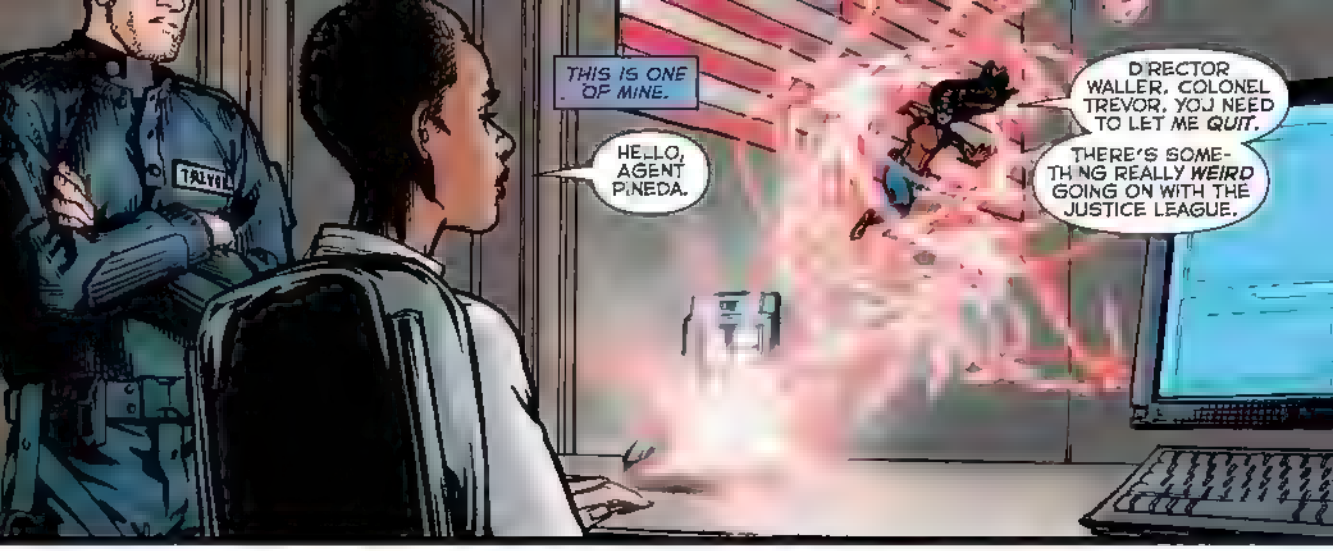

I'LL GIVE UP THE SIZE CHANGING BELT. YOU CAN FIND SOMEONE ELSE.
STONE SKIN PRESS

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE ARE REALLY, REALLY NICE PEOPLE.
THEY'RE THE GOOD GUYS! AND NOW EVERYONE IS ASKING ME HOW I STOPPED DESPERO! BATMAN WANTS ME TO WALK THEM THROUGH IT. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY?! THEY'RE GOING TO FIND OUT!


YOU NEED TO TAKE A BREATH, CALM DOWN AND COME TALK TO US FACE-TO-FACE, RHONDA.

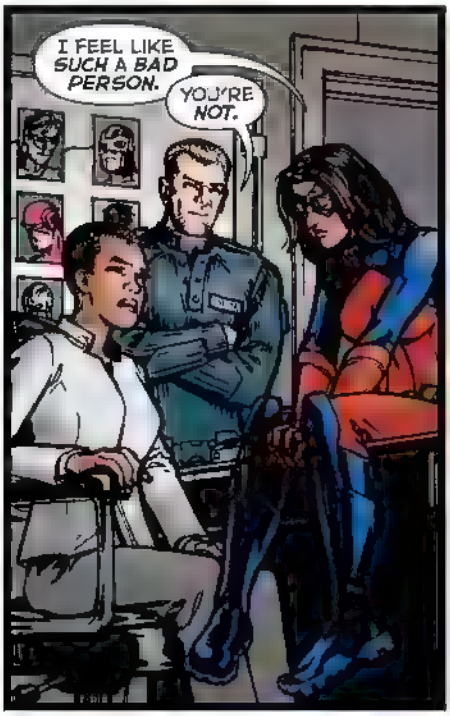

SECRETS.

WE ALL HAVE THEM.


THIS IS ONE OF MINE.
HELLO, AGENT PINEDA.
DIRECTOR WALLER. COLONEL TREVOR. YOU NEED TO LET ME QUIT.
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY WEIRD GOING ON WITH THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.

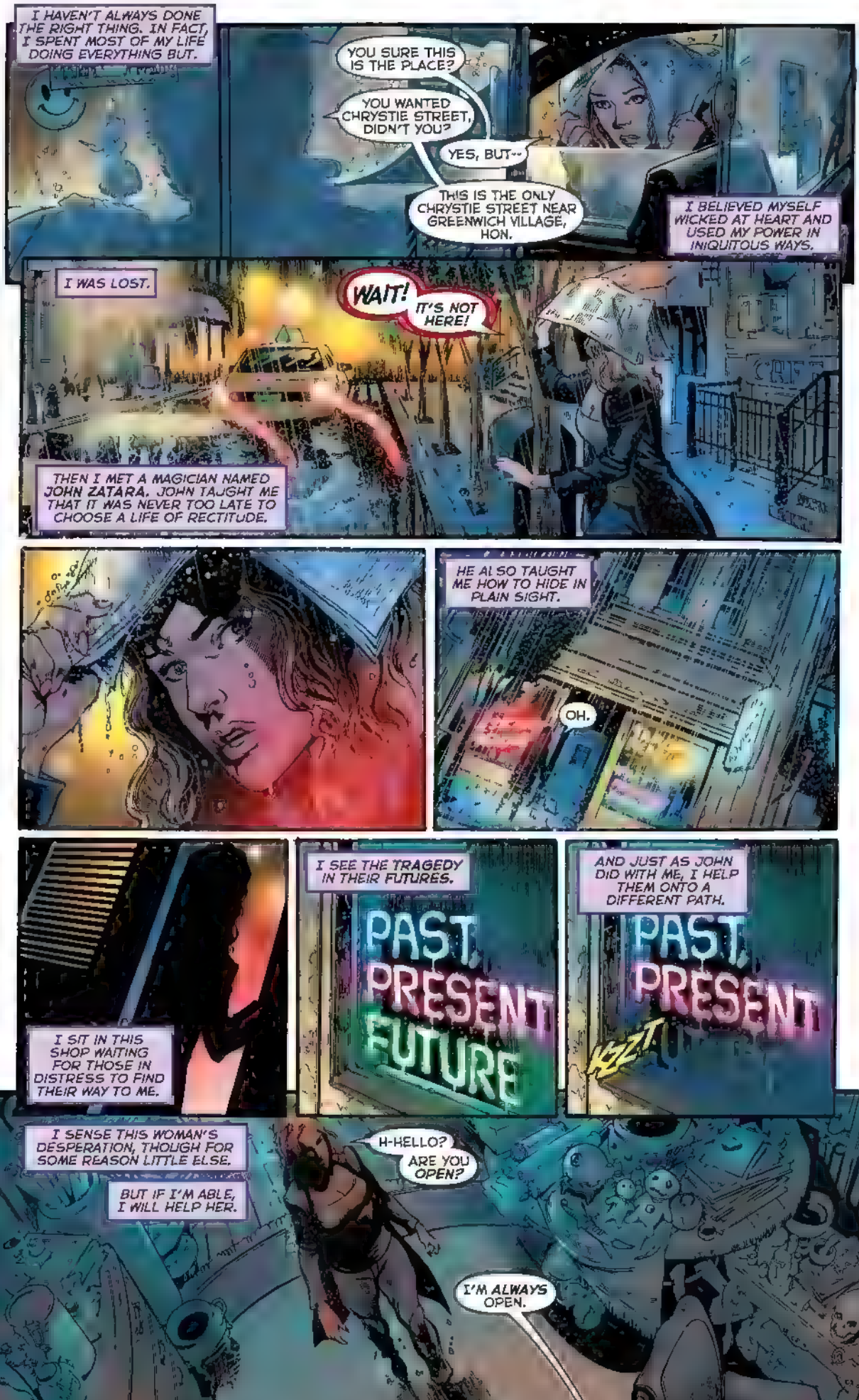
SOMEONE HACKED INTO THE WATCHTOWER AND STOLE THE R FILES.
THEN SOMEONE TOOK SOME KRYPTONITE FROM BATMAN AND GAVE IT TO DESPERO.
AND AFTER WE RECOVERED IT, WE FOUND A SLIVER MISSING.

YOU JUST GAVE US ALL THE REASONS WHY WE HAVE YOU THERE, ATOM.
YOU NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.


I FEEL LIKE SUCH A BAD PERSON.
YOU'RE NOT.

YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.
NOW LET'S GO OVER HOW YOU CAN STOP ELEMENT WOMAN FROM ALTERING HER BODY AT THE ATOMIC LEVEL...

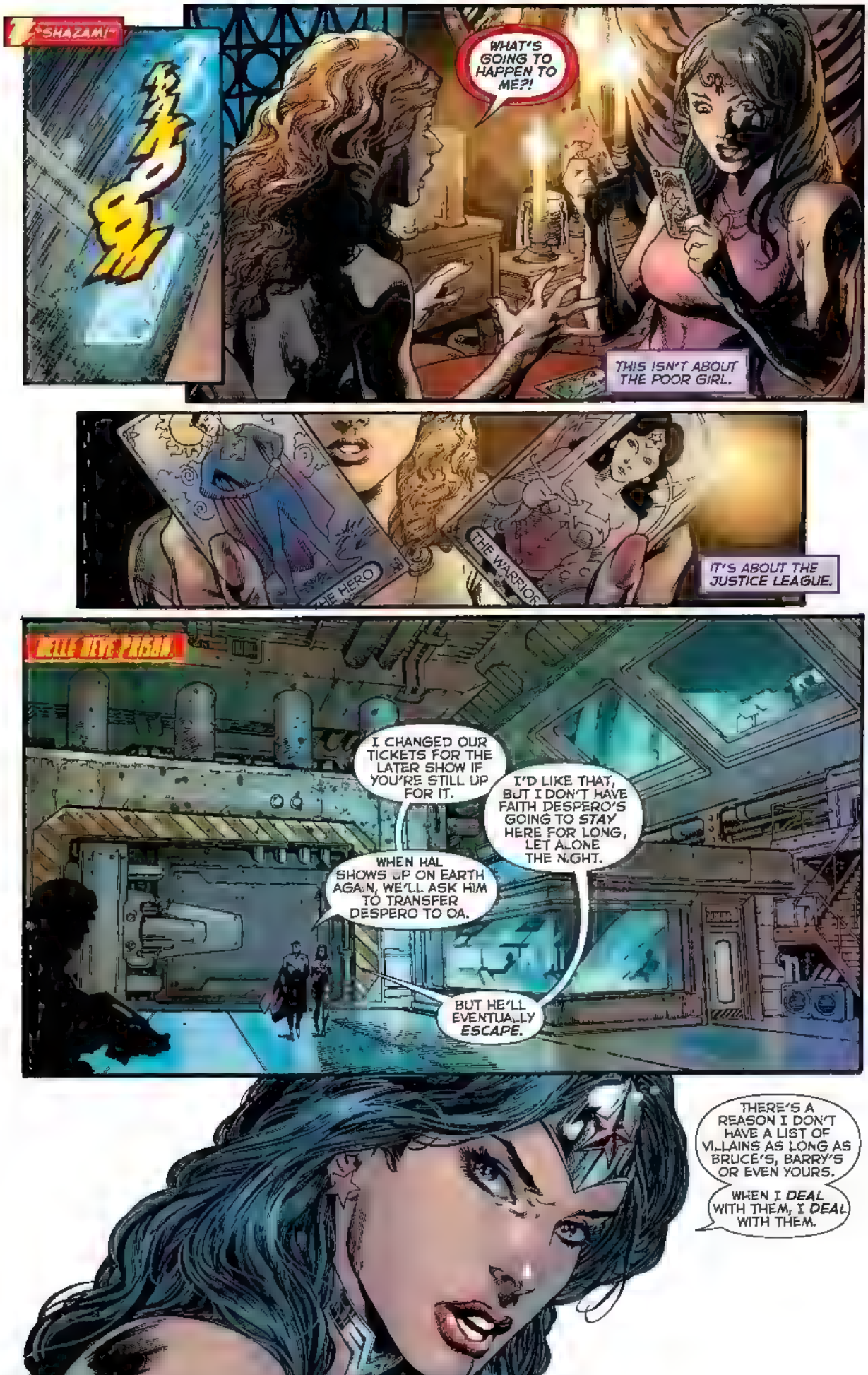
...AND TELL US WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT FIRESTORM.
MY NAME IS RHONDA PINEDA, BUT THEY CALL ME THE ATOM.
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS A WAR IS COMING.


I HAVEN'T ALWAYS DONE THE RIGHT THING. IN FACT, I SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE DOING EVERYTHING BUT.
YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE?
YOU WANTED CHRYSTIE STREET, DIDN'T YOU?
YES, BUT--
THIS IS THE ONLY CHRYSTIE STREET NEAR GREENWICH VILLAGE, HON.
I BELIEVED MYSELF WICKED AT HEART AND USED MY POWER IN INIQUITOUS WAYS.
I WAS LOST.
WAIT! IT'S NOT HERE!
THEN I MET A MAGICIAN NAMED JOHN ZATARA. JOHN TAUGHT ME THAT IT WAS NEVER TOO LATE TO CHOOSE A LIFE OF RECTITUDE.
HE ALSO TAUGHT ME HOW TO HIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT.
OH.
I SIT IN THIS SHOP WAITING FOR THOSE IN DISTRESS TO FIND THEIR WAY TO ME.
I SEE THE TRAGEDY IN THEIR FUTURES.
PAST PRESENT FUTURE
AND JUST AS JOHN DID WITH ME, I HELP THEM ONTO A DIFFERENT PATH.
PAST PRESENT
KZZT
I SENSE THIS WOMAN'S DESPERATION, THOUGH FOR SOME REASON LITTLE ELSE.
BUT IF I'M ABLE, I WILL HELP HER.
H-HELLO? ARE YOU OPEN?
I'M ALWAYS OPEN.

I AM MADAME XANADU.
I SENSE YOU ARE AS MUCH A MYSTERY TO YOURSELF AS YOU ARE TO ME.
MY FRIEND SAID YOU COULD HELP ME.
I'VE BEEN HAVING THIS DREAM--THIS NIGHTMARE--EVERY NIGHT FOR THE LAST WEEK
THEY THROW A LIT MATCH AND WATCH ME BURN. WHEN THE FIRE LIGHTS UP THE ROOM, I SEE THEM.
I WAKE UP IN MY BED TO THIS SMELL. THERE'S SOMEONE POURING GASOLINE ALL OVER ME. IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE WHO.
AND IT'S ME.
I...I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL INSIDE OF ME, I THINK IT'S GOING TO MAKE ME DO TERRIBLE THINGS.
TWO NIGHTS AGO, I WOKE UP AND FOUND A CAN OF GASOLINE NEXT TO MY BED. MY FEET WERE DIRTY. I THINK I WAS SLEEPWALKING. I HAVEN'T SLEPT S SINCE...
I TOUCH HER...
...AND I SEE THE FUTURE.

BUT IT'S NOT HERS.
THERE'S NOTH NG LEFT TO FIGHT FOR.
YES, THERE IS.
WE HAVE TO ESCAPE. WE HAVE TO SAVE HIM.
I SEE THE AFTERMATH OF A GREAT WAR. AND I SEE ONE WORD THAT DEFINES IT: TRINITY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
WHAT IS THE TRINITY WAR?
THE CARDS.
KZZT
THE CARDS WILL TELL ME WHO WILL START IT AND HOW I CAN STOP THEM.
I HAVE YET TO MEET HIM, BUT I KNOW WHO HE IS.
AND HOW WRONGLY HE WAS CHOSEN.
FWAP
THE BOY

"BLACK ADAM WAS A BAD GUY, BILLY."
I STILL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING WITH HIS ASHES, FREDDY.
THIS HOUSE HAS TWO BATHROOMS.
WHICH IS ENTIRELY TOO FEW FOR SIX KIDS AND TWO ADULTS.
THREE ADULTS IF YOU COUNT BILLY, EUGENE.
YOU MEAN SHAZAM!
NOT SO LOUD, DARLA. MR. AND MRS. VASQUEZ ARE HOME.
BLACK ADAM TRIED TO KILL US. WHY WOULD YOU DO ANYTHING FOR HIM?
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T GO OFF THE DEEP END UNTIL MAGIC CAME INTO THE PICTURE.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TURN EVIL LIKE HIM, ARE YOU?
NO, DARLA. AND HE WASN'T EVIL. HE WAS MISGUIDED.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?
I'LL SPREAD HIS ASHES ACROSS THE KAHNDAQ DESERT.
KAHNDAQ?
THAT'S WHERE HE WAS FROM, MARY.
THAT'S HALFWAY ACROSS THE WORLD.
BILLY CAN FLY THERE.
IT'S DANGEROUS.
MARY'S RIGHT, BILLY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ISSUED A STRICT WARNING AGAINST ANY AMERICAN TRAVELING THERE.
SUPERMAN AND WONDER WOMAN WENT THERE TO RESCUE THOSE HOSTAGES LAST WEEK.
BUT WHY DO THIS, BILLY?
BECAUSE EVEN "BAD GUYS" DESERVE TO BE BURIED.


SHAZAM!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME?!
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THE POOR GIRL.
THE HERO
THE WARRIOR
IT'S ABOUT THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
I CHANGED OUR TICKETS FOR THE LATER SHOW IF YOU'RE STILL UP FOR IT.
I'D LIKE THAT, BUT I DON'T HAVE FAITH DESPERO'S GOING TO STAY HERE FOR LONG, LET ALONE THE NIGHT.
WHEN HAL SHOWS UP ON EARTH AGAIN, WE'LL ASK HIM TO TRANSFER DESPERO TO OA.
BUT HE'LL EVENTUALLY ESCAPE.
THERE'S A REASON I DON'T HAVE A LIST OF VILLAINS AS LONG AS BRUCE'S, BARRY'S OR EVEN YOURS.
WHEN I DEAL WITH THEM, I DEAL WITH THEM.

I TRUST YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT *KILLING* THEM, DIANA.
ONLY IF IT COMES TO THAT.
THERE'S NO DOUBT *INNOCENT PEOPLE* HAVE BEEN PUT ON *DEATH ROW.*
NOT IF YOU HAVE A *LASSO* OF *TRUTH.*
MAYBE WE SHOULD CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
NO.
FWAP
"NOT *HER.*"
SUPERMAN.

YOU'RE THE PUREST OF HEART. YOU HAVE TO BE.
PANDORA IS ONE OF THE SCORNED TRINITY OF SIN.
THREE TRANSGRESSORS WHO WERE DAMNED BY AN ANCIENT COUNCIL TO AN ETERNAL LIFE, WALKING AMONG US AND WITNESSING WHAT THEY HAD WROUGHT.
MOST WOULD ARGUE OTHERWISE, BUT I BELIEVE PANDORA IS THE WORST OF THEM. SO DID JOHN.
THE HOSTAGE
PANDORA?
PANDORA? AS IN THE GREEK MYTH?
YOU'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE OF THOSE MYTHS, SUPERMAN. WE'RE VERY REAL.
IF THE GODS SENT YOU--
LIKE YOU, I NEVER LISTEN TO THE GODS, DIANA.
I BELIEVE ONE OF THEM GOT ME INTO THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SOMEONE MANIPULATED ME INTO OPENING THIS BOX, DAMNING MYSELF--AND ALL OF HUMANITY.
I FREED THE SEVEN SINS FROM THE R PRISON.
"BECAUSE OF ME, HUMANS HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR EVIL.
"BUT WITH YOUR HELP, I CAN FOREVER ERADICATE EVIL."
YOU WANT TO RECRUIT DOCTOR LIGHT, AMANDA?
I SEE A SECOND JUSTICE LEAGUE NOW...A TEAM BUILT BY DESIGN INSTEAD OF FATE.

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
PUT TOGETHER TO SPECIFICALLY COUNTER THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IN EVERY WAY.. WITHOUT MOST OF THEIR RECRUITS EVEN REALIZING IT
YOU DO REALIZE ARTHUR LIGHT IS A SCIENTIST, NOT A SOLDIER DON'T YOU?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE NEED H.M. STEVE.
LIGHT LITERALLY WROTE THE BOOK ON METAHUMAN PHYSICS AND POWER GENERATION--HE KNOWS HOW FIRESTORM'S ABILITIES WORK BETTER THAN FIRESTORM DOES.
IF I JOIN THE JLA, THEY'LL HELP ME FIND A CURE TO THESE POWERS.
BECAUSE THESE ABILITIES HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO ME, KIM.
EVERY ROOM I WALK INTO, I TAKE AWAY THE LIGHT. I SUCK IT UP LIKE A BLACK HOLE.
I CRAVE DARKNESS.
AND NOW THEY WANT ME TO USE THIS POWER AGAINST FIRESTORM.
BUT HE'S ACTUALLY TWO KIDS.
AND THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS HURT KIDS.
"YOU SAID YOU COULD TRUST DOCTOR LIGHT, AMANDA, BUT HE'S ALREADY TOLD HIS WIFE EVERYTHING."
INCLUDING THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS COUNTRY'S SHINY NEW HOPE: THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA. SHE KNOWS IT'S A FRONT.
WE'LL SEND THE MARTIAN TO PAY MRS. LIGHT A VISIT TO TAKE THAT INFORMATION BACK.
AND I'LL WARN ARTHUR THAT IF HE TALKS TO HIS WIFE AGAIN, WE'LL ERASE HIM FROM HER MIND.
THE BOY
THE SOLDIER
FWAP
FWAP
DO WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING?
YES, DIRECTOR WALLER.

FWP
THE DETECTIVE
THE REMAINS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WATCHTOWER
SOMEONE HACKS INTO OUR SYSTEM *WITHOUT* MY KNOWING, SHUTS DOWN OUR DEFENSES AND LETS *DESPERO* IN.
WHILE SOMEONE ELSE--OR MAYBE THE SAME PERSON--BREAKS INTO THE BATCAVE AND STEALS A KRYPTONITE RING.
A KRYPTONITE RING NO ONE KNEW YOU HAD.
I HAVE IT FOR *STUDY*, V.C.
TO SEE IF YOU CAN COME UP WITH A *KRYPTONITE ANTIDOTE* FOR SUPERMAN?
THAT MIGHT FLY WITH THE ROOKIES, BRUCE, BUT NOT WITH ME.
BATMAN SAID TO KEEP OUR EYES OPEN FOR ANYTHING SALVAGEABLE FROM THE TROPHY ROOM, ELEMENT WOMAN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU STOPPED DESPERO ALL BY YOURSELF, ATOM.
THAT IS THE *COOLEST* THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED IN THE HISTORY OF HAPPENINGS.
YEAH, UH, BEGINNER'S *LUCK*.
TELL NO ONE I WAS HERE.
HEY! I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING!
IT'S A *CHESS SET*...

"...BUT THE SUPERMAN PIECE IS MISSING."
HUMANS AREN'T EVIL BECAUSE SOMEONE OPENED A MAGIC BOX, PANDORA. WHOEVER TOLD YOU THAT--
NO ONE TOLD ME ANYTHING. I WAS THERE. I SAW THE SEVEN SINS FLY OUT INTO THE WORLD.
I CAN'T HAVE THIS CONVERSATION. DIANA?
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, SUPERMAN. SOMEONE TRICKED HER INTO OPENING THE BOX.
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO CAN UNDO WHAT I DID. SOMEONE WHO CAN OPEN THIS BOX AND IMPRISON SIN ONCE AGAIN.
WE CAN FREE HUMANITY FROM EVIL. AND I CAN BE FREE FROM MY CURSE.
YOU JUST NEED TO OPEN THE BOX. AND IF ANYONE CAN SURVIVE ITS TOUCH, IT'S SUPERMAN!
AHH!
SUPERMAN?!

AAHHHH!

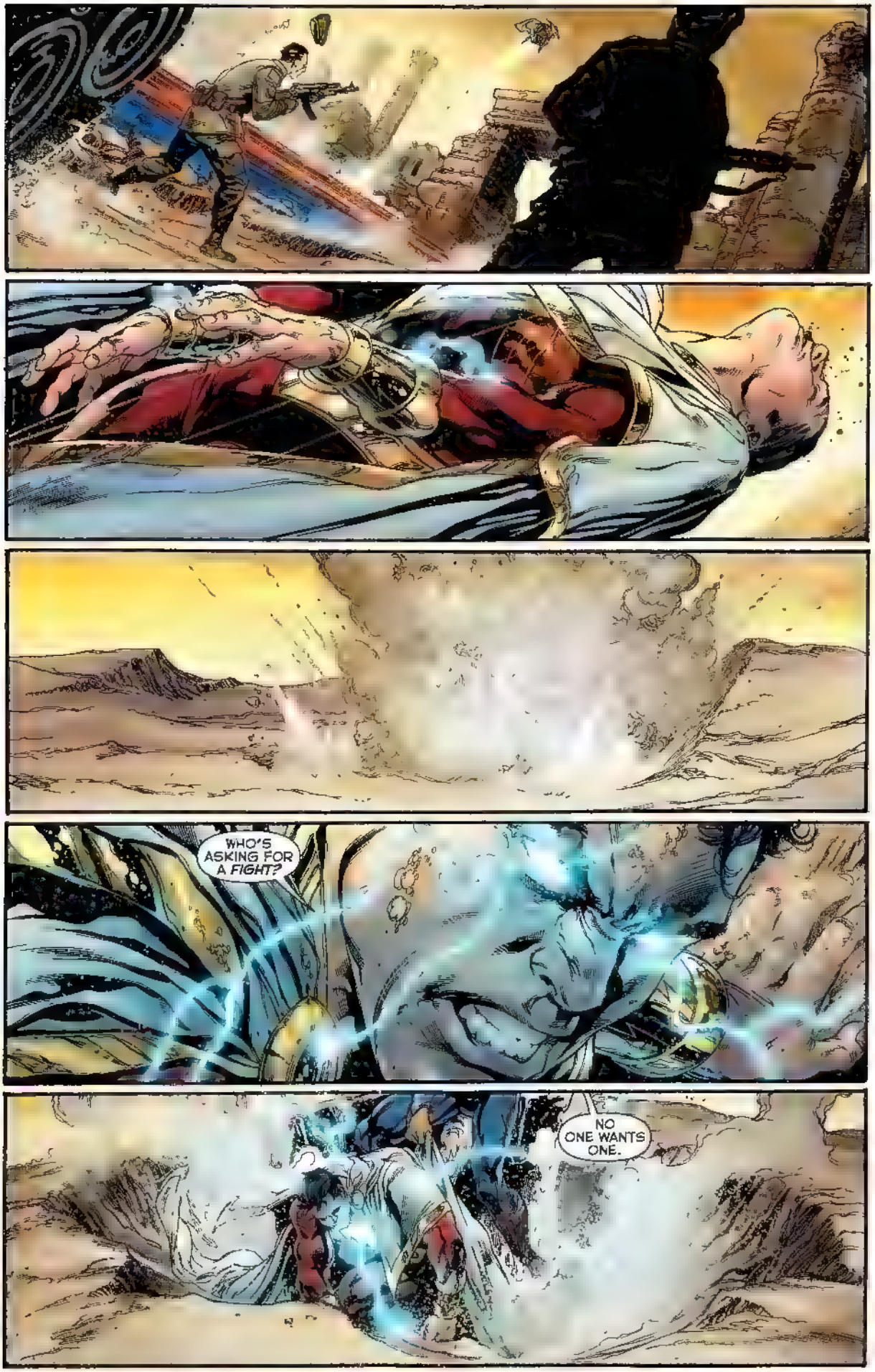
WHAT DID YOU DO?
THE BOX...
WHAT'S IT DOING TO HIM?
HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME THE INFLUENCE. HE'S SUPERMAN.
THERE'S NO EVIL IN SUPERMAN!
GET THE BOX AWAY FROM H.M, PANDORA.
NOW!
CHAK
CHAK
HE'S MORE HUMAN THAN I REALIZED.

BLAMM
BLAMM
STOP!
KA-TANG
PANDORA?
SUPERMAN? WONDER WOMAN? WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY.
SO DO WE, BATMAN. SUPERMAN'S--
NO. I'M OKAY, DIANA... AND PANDORA'S GONE.
WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER. WHAT'S THE EMERGENCY, BATMAN?
CYBORG JUST GOT A VISUAL ON SOMEONE IN A CAPE FLYING INTO KAHNDAQ.
WHO IS IT?
A NEW SUPER-HUMAN FROM PHILADELPHIA--SHAZAM. HE'S CROSSED THE BORDER, BUT HE DOESN'T SEEM TO REALIZE THE KAHNDAQI ARMY IS ON HIS TAIL.
"WHEN YOU TWO WENT INTO KAHNDAQ YOURSELVES, IT MADE IT OKAY FOR EVERYONE ELSE."
"WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT SHAZAM?"
"FROM THE ENERGY SIGNATURE CYBORG'S DETECTED, WE SUSPECT SHAZAM'S POWERED BY MAGIC--SOMETHING WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WITH."
"ZATANNA SAID IF WE EVER NEEDED HER, SHE'D BE THERE FOR US."

WE'RE ALREADY MAKING A CALL.
YES! WE'RE HEADING INTO KAHNDAQ RIGHT NOW, COLONEL TREVOR.
DOCTOR LIGHT.
GET YOUR HELMET STRAPPED ON AND GET TO THE INVISIBLE JET.
"THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS HEADING INTO KAHNDAQ.
"IT'S THE JLA'S JOB TO GET THEM OUT."
THE JLA ISN'T READY FOR THIS, WALLER.
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY WE MIGHT NOT GET AGAIN, STEVE.
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO GO SHINE A SPOTLIGHT ON HOW UNCONTROLLABLE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE IS.
THEY WANT US TO FORCE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TO DO SOMETHING? THIS IS CRAZY, STARGIRL.
I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE ON THE FLASH?
WHAT CAN I DO AGAINST CYBORG?
YOU GOT AQUAMAN? YOU DON'T, UH, YOU DON'T WANT TO TRADE DO YOU, HAWKMAN?
NO, VIBE. BUT I'LL TAKE YOURS TOO IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING, IF BATMAN'S INVOLVED, WE SHOULD TRUST THEM.
YOUR PERSONAL INVESTMENT IS CLOUDING YOUR JUDGMENT, CATWOMAN.
WHY'S IT GETTING DARK IN HERE?
THIS IS WRONG.

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE HAS SAVED THE WORLD COUNTLESS TIMES.
THE JLA SHOULD BE THERE TO SUPPORT THEM.
THE NEW GUY IS RIGHT, COLONEL TREVOR.
IF THEY'RE GOING INTO KAHNDAQ, THEY'VE GOT A GOOD REASON TO.
GOOD REASON OR NOT, THIS CALLS FOR DIPLOMACY BEFORE ACTION, LANTERN.
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE NOT DOING.
I'M NO FAN OF THE LEAGUE, TREVOR, BUT THEY AREN'T THE BAD GUYS.
WE'RE UNDER DIRECT ORDERS, ARROW. YOU DON'T LIKE IT, GET OFF THE JET.
THIS ISN'T HOW I PLANNED ON THIS GOING DOWN.
NOR I.
BUT YOU'RE WRONG, STEVE. AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITH THE SECRET SOCIETY...
...WE ARE READY TO TAKE ON THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
TRUE INTENTIONS ARE HIDDEN BY LIES.
THE ALIEN
THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER ISN'T THE ONLY ONE MASQUERADING AMONG THEM.

THEY ALL HAVE SECRETS.
I GUESS I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING.
I'VE NEVER BEEN ANY GOOD AT THIS.
HEY!
BRRAATT
DON'T--!
KKHH
NO!
I FLEW ALL THE WAY HERE AND... AND YOU RUINED IT.
STOP SHOOTING AT ME!


WHO'S ASKING FOR A *FIGHT?*
NO ONE WANTS ONE.

THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED IT!
SUPERMAN?
I JUST KNOCKED DOWN SUPERMAN.
I JUST KNOCKED DOWN SUPERMAN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN KAHNDAQ?
I'D ANSWER THE LADY.
OR WHAT?
YOU AREN'T SO TOUGH, SUPERMAN!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME BE YET.

I ASK AGAIN—WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN KAHNDAQ?
WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF YOURS, HUH?
JERKS.
WELL, HE'S A BIT RUDE, ISN'T HE?
WHO IS HE?
THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT SHAZAM'S MAGIC. LIKE I'VE BEEN IN ITS PRESENCE BEFORE.
WHATEVER YOU AND THE REST OF THE LEAGUE ARE DOING HERE, ZATANNA...

...WE'RE GOING TO ESCORT YOU OUT.

THAT'S WHAT WE CAME TO DO WITH SHAZAM, STEVE.
KAHNDAQ THINKS THEY'RE BEING *INVADED*, DIANA.
COME WITH US BEFORE THIS ESCALATES.
THOSE SOLDIERS WERE THE ONES THAT JUST STARTED *FIRING*.
THEN *SUPERMAN* HIT ME.
WHAT WAS I *SUPPOSED* TO DO?
TELL DIRECTOR WALLER AND HER GOVERNMENT WATCHDOGS, THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* HAS THIS UNDER *CONTROL*. TAKE YOUR "TEAM" *BACK TO D.C.*
AND THIS IS *NO* PLACE FOR YOU, CATWOMAN.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY *YOUR* SCENE EITHER, BATMAN. THOUGHT TRUTHFULLY, I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU COULD USE A LITTLE MORE *SUN*.
WE'VE GOT THE KAHNDAQ AIR FORCE FLYING OVERHEAD. THIS ISN'T A *JOKE*, CATWOMAN.
OF COURSE IT IS, STEVIE. NOW COME ON. DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE WONDER GIRL AND BATS A LITTLE *JEALOUS*?
I SEE YET ANOTHER PLAYER IN THIS GAME.
ANOTHER MYSTERY.
FWAP
UNKNOWN

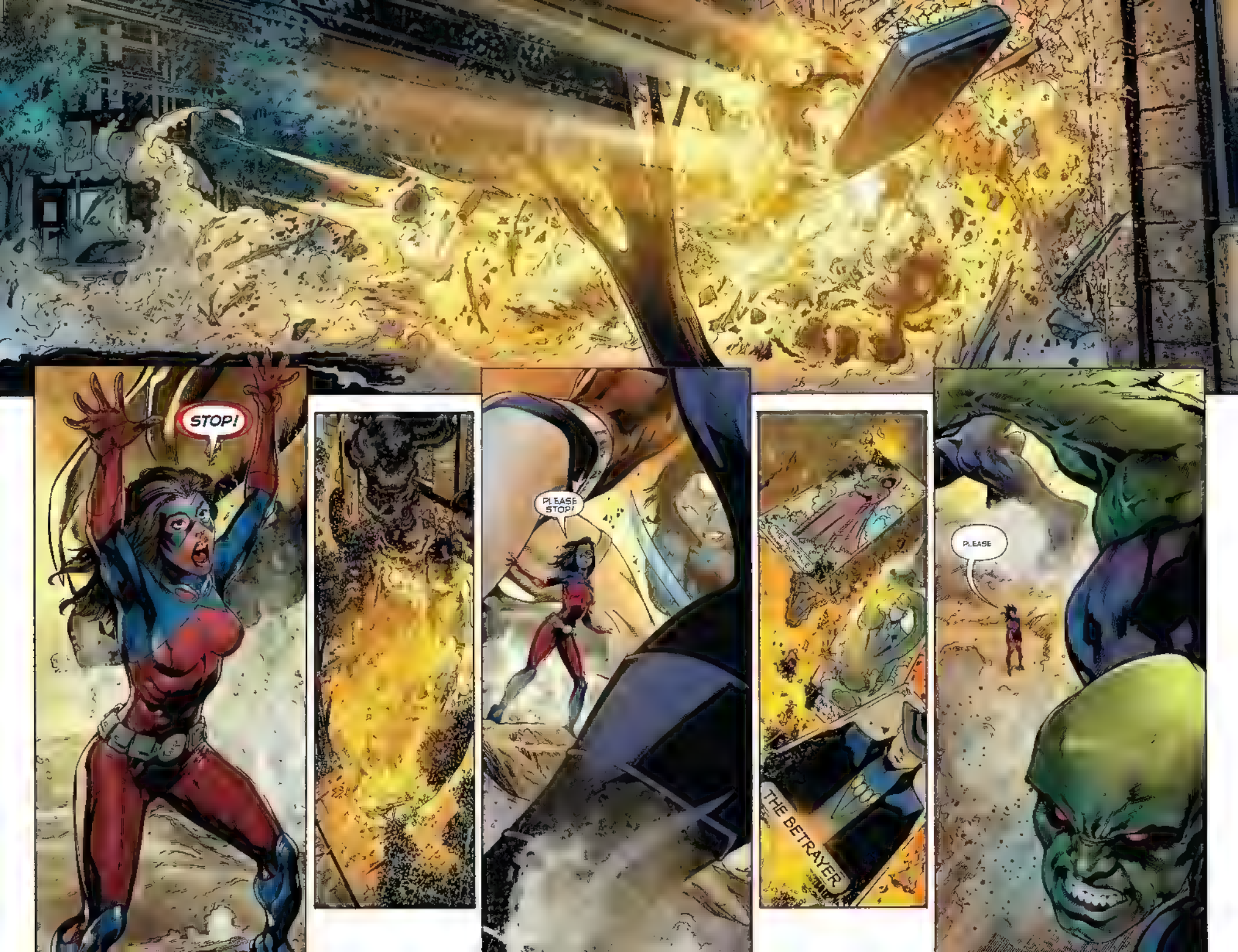
WILL YOU STOP TURNING OVER CARDS AND PLEASE TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE?
EVIL
OH, I MESSED UP. I NEVER SHOULD'VE AGREED TO BEING PART OF THE JLA.
I NEVER SHOULD'VE DONE THIS.
EVIL
"DONE WHAT, ATOM?"
PANDORA IS FINALLY OUT IN THE OPEN.
"SHE WILL SOON BELONG TO THE SOCIETY."
I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP ME.
I MUST OPEN THIS BOX.
IT'S TIME THE PHANTOM STRANGER GOT INVOLVED.
WHAT IS THE QUESTION I MUST ANSWER NEXT?

WHO IS THE EVIL BEHIND THE EVIL?
EVIL
BEHIND
EVIL
WHO IS THE EVIL
DARKSEID INVADES
EVIL
EVIL
TRIANGLE LIGHTS ABOVE THE KIELDER FOREST

WE ALL NEED TO STOP!
PLEASE!
STAND YOUR GROUND, DOCTOR LIGHT.
NO!
MY WIFE'S ALWAYS SAID AS LONG AS WE WANT THE SAME THING, WE CAN FIGURE THINGS OUT. AND WE ALL DO WANT THE SAME THING, DON'T WE?
WE ALL JUST WANT TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.
AAAH!
DOCTOR LIGHT?!
SUPERMAN... HE'S A SOLAR BATTERY. I C-CAN'T--
AAH!!!
DIANA!
GET AWAY FROM HER!
SUPERMAN, I'M SORRY! I--!

NNNNNNN

NO!
I KNOW WHAT THE TRINITY MEANS.
THEY'RE COMING. SOME OF THEM ARE ALREADY HERE.
I NEED TO WARN THE JUSTICE LEAGUES!
N-NO... I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
DOCTOR LIGHT?
SUPERMAN KILLED HIM.
SUPERMAN DID NOT DO THIS!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHO IS TRYING TO IMPUTE THE MAN OF STEEL?
MY FRIENDS TOLD THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU.
YOU REALLY DO SEE THE FUTURE.
AAHHH!
BUT THE SECRET SOCIETY MADE SURE YOU WOULDN'T SEE ME COMING.
WHO ARE YOU?
THEY CALL ME PLASTIQUE.
AU REVOIR, MADEMOISELLE.
AND YOU WON'T WARN ANYONE ABOUT THE FUTURE EVER AGAIN.


STOP!
PLEASE STOP!
THE BETRAYER
PLEASE

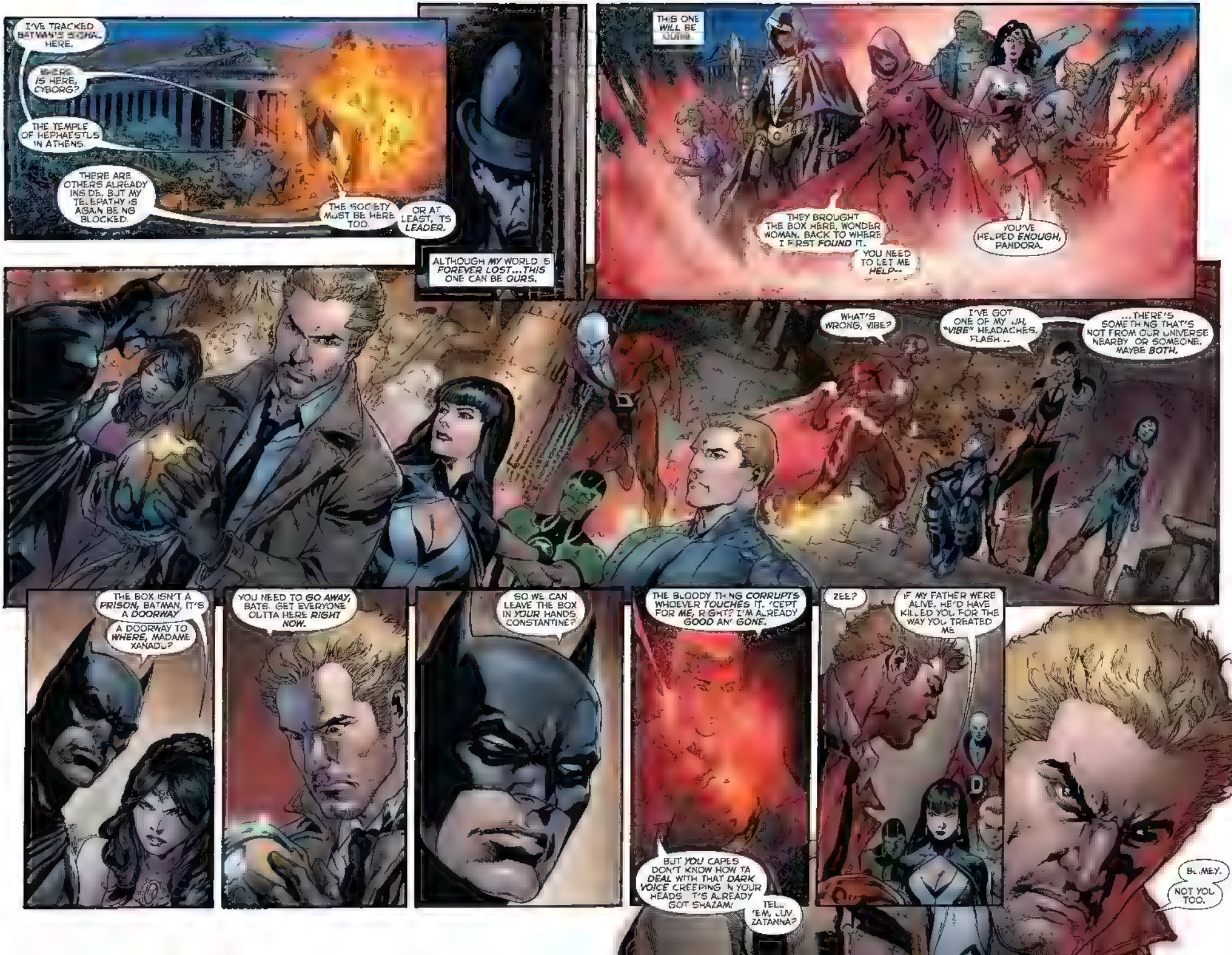
THE FOOL
THE JUGGLER
THE HERMIT
THE PRIEST
THE KING
THE QUEEN
THE THIEF
THE MISFIT
THE SAVAGE
THE ASSASSIN

...REPORTS COMING IN OF AN ALL-OUT WAR BETWEEN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.
THE DETECTIVE
THE SACRIFICE
...ONE CASUALTY, THOUGH I'M NOT SURE I BELIEVE IT...AT THE HANDS OF SUPERMAN?
THE HERO
THE WARRIOR
THE GR
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE.
HA.
THANKS TO ME, EVERYONE WILL ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT SUPERMAN'S KILLED DOCTOR LIGHT.
THE OUTSIDER
"AND BY THE TIME THE JUSTICE LEAGUE FIGURES OUT WHAT I'M UP TO, THE WORLD WILL ALREADY BELONG TO US."

GEOFF JOHNS writer | IVAN REIS penciler | JOE PRADO inker | OCLAIR ALBERT inker | EBER FERREIRA inker
JOD REIS colorist | DOUG MAHNKE with ALEX SINCLAIR

IT ALL STARTED FIVE YEARS AGO.
THE PLANET WAS ATTACKED BY ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS IN EXISTENCE -- A WORLD CONQUEROR CALLED
DARKSEID.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE CAME TOGETHER TO STOP HIM FROM ENSLAVING EARTH.

ON THAT SAME DAY, WHILE THE BARRIERS BETWEEN UNIVERSES WERE WEAKENED, I FINALLY ESCAPED FROM WHAT WAS LEFT OF MY WORLD.
BUT MY MASTER DID NOT
THEY DIDN'T MAKE IT
NO, MY DEAR, BUT WE DID.
HA.
AND SO MY MISSION TO SAVE HIM BEGAN.
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE CONTINUED TO BATTLE OVERT THREATS TO THE WORLD WHILE WE STAYED HIDDEN.
FOR THE FIRST YEAR, I STRUGGLED TO COMPREHEND THE CULTURE AND RULES OF THIS BIZARRE PLACE.
EVEN THE VERY BASIC OF IDEAS APPEARED TWISTED AND TURNED INSIDE OUT
EAST IS WEST AND WEST IS EAST
WHILE THE LEAGUE CONTINUED ON, I SEARCHED FOR A WAY TO HELP THE MAN WHO RESCUED ME FROM MY DESTITUTE LIFE.
I HAD MANY MOMENTS OF DOUBT AND DESPERATION DURING THIS TIME.
I FELT ALONE.
BUT I REFUSED TO FAIL MY MASTER.
WHEN I DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF PANDORA'S BOX I FELT HOPE.
I RECOGNIZED IT.
I KNEW WHERE IT CAME FROM AND WHAT IT COULD DO.
I RECRUITED THE LEAGUE'S MANY ENEMIES STARTING WITH PROFESSOR IVO.
I BEGAN BUILDING THE SECRET SOCIETY TO BE AT THE READY FOR MY MASTER'S ARRIVAL.
THEN I PLANTED AN AGENT WITHIN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S RANKS.
AND WITH THE HIGH LEVEL OF DISTRUST BETWEEN THE LEAGUES, I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OPPORTUNITY WOULD PRESENT ITSELF.
WHEN THE LEAGUES CAME INTO CONFLICT, I MADE THE WORLD BELIEVE SUPERMAN HAD KILLED ONE OF HIS WOULD-BE TEAMMATES. THEY THOUGHT IT TO BE BECAUSE OF HIS ENCOUNTER WITH PANDORA'S BOX.
SO THE LEAGUES SET OFF TO FIND IT. THEY'VE DONE MY JOB FOR ME.
HA.
I AM AN OUTSIDER TO THIS WORLD.
I AM THE OUTSIDER.
AND I SERVE MY MASTER WELL.


I'VE TRACKED BATMAN'S SCENT HERE.
[illegible] IS HERE, CYBORG?
THE TEMPLE OF HEPHAESTUS IN ATHENS.
THERE ARE OTHERS ALREADY INSIDE, BUT MY TELEPATHY IS AGAIN BEING BLOCKED.
THE SOCIETY MUST BE HERE TOO.
OR AT LEAST, ITS LEADER.
ALTHOUGH MY WORLD IS FOREVER LOST...THIS ONE CAN BE OURS.
THIS ONE WILL BE [illegible]
THEY BROUGHT THE BOX HERE, WONDER WOMAN. BACK TO WHERE I FIRST FOUND IT.
YOU NEED TO LET ME HELP--
YOU'VE HELPED ENOUGH, PANDORA.
WHAT'S WRONG, VIBE?
I'VE GOT ONE OF MY UH, "VIBE" HEADACHES, FLASH...
...THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S NOT FROM OUR UNIVERSE NEARBY OR SOMEONE. MAYBE BOTH.
THE BOX ISN'T A PRISON, BATMAN, IT'S A DOORWAY.
A DOORWAY TO WHERE, MADAME XANADU?
YOU NEED TO GO AWAY, BATS. GET EVERYONE OUTTA HERE RIGHT NOW.
SO WE CAN LEAVE THE BOX IN YOUR HANDS, CONSTANTINE?
THE BLOODY THING CORRUPTS WHOEVER TOUCHES IT. 'CEPT FOR ME, RIGHT? I'M ALREADY GOOD AN' GONE.
BUT YOU CAPES DON'T KNOW HOW TA DEAL WITH THAT DARK VOICE CREEPING N YOUR HEADS. I'S ALREADY GOT SHAZAM.
TELL 'EM, LUV, ZATANNA?
ZEE?
IF MY FATHER WERE ALIVE, HE'D HAVE KILLED YOU FOR THE WAY YOU TREATED ME.
BLAMEY.
NOT YOU TOO.

NOT EVERYONE.
EVIG EM EHT XOB!

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE W TH MY HEAD SCREWED ON STRAIGHT. DON'T YOU BLOODY SEE?
WHATEVER EVIL IS INSIDE THE BOX IS LEAKIN' OUT. IT'S ALREADY INFECTING Y--
AAAARGHHH!
SHUT UP, OLD MAN.
HA.
IT'S TIME.

BATMAN'S GOT THE BOX! WE CAN HELP SUPERMAN--
YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO *SUPERMAN*, LANTERN?
HE *TOOK* DIANA FROM ME, SIMON. LET HIM *ROT*.
YOU'RE JUST A MAN.
I'M NOT *AFRAID* OF YOU, BATMAN. I'M THE *GREEN LANTERN*.
BUT YOU'RE *NO* HAL JORDAN.
HEY, *NEW GUY*.

YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT ME.

I'VE GOT MUSCLES, FRANKIE.
N-NO, YOU D-DON'T.
SHAZAM!
KRAK KOOMMM
MERA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
SHE'S NOT.
WHAT HAPPENS IF I OPEN THE BOX? WOULD I EARN FORGIVENESS IN THE EYES OF THE GODS? WOULD I FINALLY GET THE ANSWER TO: WHO AM I?
I CANNOT ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN, QUESTION!
YOU'LL BECOME MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE BOX ITSELF!

GIVE IT TO ME, BATMAN. I CAN DESTROY IT.
WHICH WOULD OPEN IT, DIANA. AND THAT'S THE LAST THING I THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING.
WE NEED TO SAVE SUPERMAN.
I'M HERE, DIANA.
BUT YOU'RE SICK. AND I'M WORRIED YOU'LL DIE IF BATMAN DOESN'T HAND IT OVER.
AND AFTER I DIE WHAT WILL YOU DO? WILL YOU GO BACK TO STEVE?
WHAT?
OR WILL YOU GO TO BATMAN?
THIS IS ALL GOING BAD, TREVOR. WE'VE GOT WAVES OF EVIL THOUGHTS HITTING EVERYONE.
I HOPE SUPERMAN DIES.
THE BOX IS AFFECTING US. WE NEED TO--
DON'T TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO DO, BATMAN. I WANT TO LIVE A FULL LIFE AND THAT INCLUDES SHARING IT.
AND I WON'T LET YOU TAKE HER AWAY FROM ME.
SUPERMAN, STOP!

I WON'T STOP UNTIL BATMAN IS DEAD!

BOOOMMM
KZZT
THOOOM
SUPERMAN?!
NOBODY TOUCH THE BOX!
IT'S GONE *DORMANT* FOR THE MOMENT.
EVERYBODY STAY BACK.
WHY IS THE BOX *HURTING* SUPERMAN *PHYSICALLY*, BUT NOT *US*?
WONDER WOMAN?

THE BOX MIGHT BE MAK NG ALL OF US A LITTLE CRAZY IN THE HEAD, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S WHAT'S MAKING SUPERMAN SICK.
I DIDN'T SEE IT BEFORE BECAUSE T'S SO FAINT, BUT...IT'S GETTING STRONGER.
WHAT IS IT, FIRE-STORM?
I SEE IT TOO, RONN E.
SUPERMAN'S EMITTING SOME KIND OF RADIOACTIVE AURA... IT'S...
WE WOULDN'T HAVE RECOGNIZED IT WITHOUT WALLER'S HELP
IT'S KRYPTONITE.
HE'S BEING POISONED BY KRYPTONITE? WHERE IS IT?
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE SUPERMAN.
I CAN FIND IT.
I CAN TURN INTO OXYGEN AND ENTER HIS BLOOD-STREAM. THEN TRACE THE DYING CELLS BACK TO THE SOURCE.
IT... IT'S IN HIS BRAIN.
HIS BRAIN?
THERE'S A MICROSCOPIC SLIVER OF KRYPTONITE IN THERE.
HOW'D A MICROSCOPIC SLIVER OF KRYPTONITE GET IN HIS BRA N?
OH, THAT'S AN EASY QUESTION TO ANSWER, CYBORG.

I PUT IT IN THERE.
YOU?
"WHEN WE WERE GOING UP AGAINST THE JLA--
"--I WENT INTO SUPERMAN'S BRAIN WITH THE SLIVER OF KRYPTONITE I TOOK FROM BATMAN'S RING.
"I HIT A NERVE...
"...AND TRIGGERED HIS HEAT VIS ON."
I KNOW YOU THOUGHT I WAS PART OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE--AND THE JLA TH NKS I WORK FOR THEM, BUT THE TRUTH IS I DON'T WORK FOR ANY OF YOU.

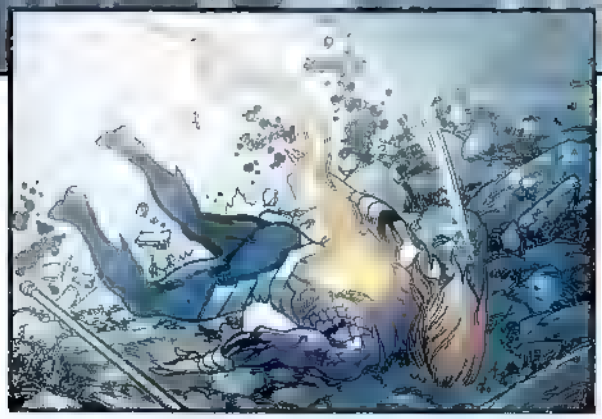
SO YOU'RE A TRAITOR?
OH, VIC.
HONEY.
SO ARE YOU.
VEET
YES.
I HAVE NO NEED FOR THIS FLESH ANYMORE
N-NO...
AND TIS A WEAKNESS PREFER TO BE WITHOUT.
SO I WILL SEPARATE FROM IT
CHANK
CHANK
CHANK

AARRGHHHH!
VICTOR!
KRRZZAAAG
KRAAZZAARTTTT
RRRAAAR!
VIC?!
KVV. KVV. KVV.
KLINK

GRIP
ON-LINE.

IT'S OURS.
KRRANKZATUT
WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU CAN'T
YAAAHH!
IT'S TOO LATE, FLASH.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU NEVER DID, PANDORA.
SINCE THE GODS WHO DAMNED YOU FIRST FOUND THIS BOX, THEY BELIEVED IT TO BE MAGIC.
BUT THEY WERE WRONG.
IT'S SCIENCE.

IT WAS CREATED ON MY WORLD LONG AGO, AND LEFT HERE.
ALL THIS TIME YOU SEARCHED THIS WORLD FOR SOMEONE WHO COULD OPEN THE BOX. BUT ONLY SOMEONE FROM OUR WORLD CAN DO THAT, PANDORA.
HA.
LIKE THE MOTHER BOX, THIS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY. AND LIKE THE MOTHER BOX, "PANDORA'S BOX" CAN OPEN A GATEWAY TO ANOTHER UNIVERSE.
OUR UNIVERSE.
THE BIRTHPLACE OF EVIL.
ALL THIS TIME YOU WERE LOOKING FOR WHO WAS BEHIND THIS...AS YOU SAY ON YOUR WORLD...
.. THE BUTLER DID IT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING, DEADMAN?
HE JUST OPENED SOME KIND OF PORTAL.
SOMEONE'S COMING THROUGH.



BATMAN?
STAY WITH ME, VIC.
WHO *IS* THAT? WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

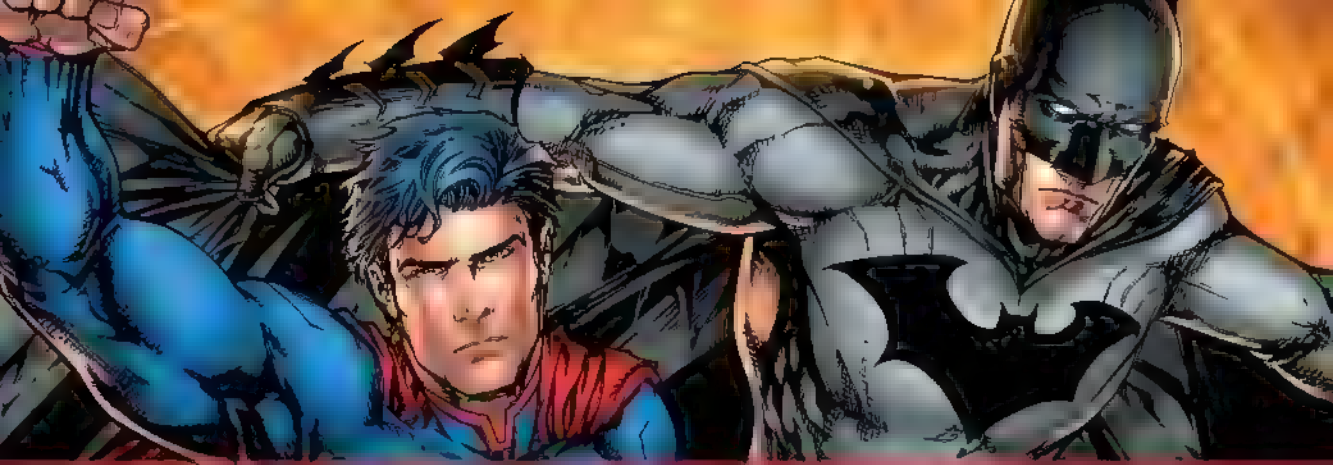
THE BOX HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
BUT EVIL HASN'T BEEN IMPRISONED, PANDORA. ONLY UNLEASHED!
THE TRINITY... IT WASN'T ABOUT YOU...
...IT WAS THE NUMBER... THE TRUE NUMBER OF EVIL.
THREE.
EARTH-THREE.
FINALLY!
THOUGH THE SEA KING DIDN'T MAKE IT...

...WE HAVE SURVIVED.

WHO ARE THEY?
I DON'T KNOW, CATWOMAN. EVERYONE REGROUP.
NOW!
JOHNNY?!
ATOMICA!
ATOMICA?
SHE'S ONE OF THEM.
OH, JOHNNY, DID I MISS YOU.
THIS WORLD IS SUCH A DRAG.
WE'LL MAKE IT FUN, BABY. PROMISE.
WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME, MASTER THOMAS.
HA.
IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, ALFRED.
B-BUT IS IT S-SAFE, OWLMAN?
IT DOESN'T LOOK S-SAFE!

IT LOOKS DANGEROUS!
CALM YOURSELF, POWER RING. THIS IS A FASCINATING WORLD, NOT A DANGEROUS ONE. NOT TO US.
B-BUT DEATHSTORM--
KEEP PANICKING AND YOU WILL ONLY MAKE YOUR CONDITION WORSE.
B-BUT WHAT IS THAT?!
THIS IS GRID.
I MET HIM WHEN I WAS HACKING INTO CYBORG.
NICE FIND, BABY.
GRID IS A SENTIENT COMPUTER VIRUS FROM THIS WORLD WITH ASPIRATIONS BEYOND CORRUPTING FILES.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, POWER RING, IT'S OUR PRISONER.
WE SHOULD'VE LEFT THE BASTARD ON OUR WORLD.
WE NEED TO REMOVE THE KRYPTONITE FROM SUPERMAN!
WE NEED TO GET VIC STABILIZED.
THE REST OF YOU, THOSE THAT CAN STAND--
IT'S SO DISCONCERTING, ISN'T IT?
YES.
THEY LOOK LIKE US, SUPERWOMAN.
AND LIKE OUR LOST ALLIES.
THEY'RE TRYING TO GET UP! WHAT DO WE DO, ULTRAMAN?!
WE STRETCH OUR LEGS AND HAVE SOME LAUGHS!
WE BEGIN OUR MISSION, JOHNNY.

THIS WORLD
NOW BELONGS TO
THE CRIME
SYNDICATE!



VARIANT COVER GALLERY

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JUSTICE LEAGUE #22
TRINITY WAR CHAPTER ONE

PAGE ONE.
PANEL ONE.

A WIDESCREEN PANEL ACROSS THE TOP OF THE PAGE

An establishing shot of "Chrystie Street" in Greenwich Village at night. It's raining hard. Few people are on the street – an old man with an umbrella walking his dog in the rain and now a YELLOW TAXI that's pulled up, from right to left, with its lights on – a nondescript white female with red hair, we'll call her BETH, in her 20s, is getting out of the cab, holding an open newspaper over her head as an umbrella. She ducks down and calls out to the driver

1. CAPTION (XANADU): I haven't always done the right thing. In fact, I spent most of my life doing everything but

2. BETH (DOUBLE BALLOON): You sure this is the place?

3. TAXI (DOUBLE BALLOON): You wanted Chrystie Street didn't you?

4. BETH (DOUBLE BALLOON): Yes, but --

5. TAXI (DOUBLE BALLOON): This is the only Chrystie Street in Greenwich Village, hon.

6. CAPTION (XANADU): I believed myself wicked at heart and used my power in insidious ways.

PANEL TWO.
A longshot of Beth standing there alone in the rain as the cab drives off. Beth looks over at it, the red lights the only real lights on the street. Beth is still holding the newspaper over her head

7. CAPTION (XANADU): I was lost

8. BETH (DOUBLE BALLOON): WAIT!

9. BETH (DOUBLE BALLOON): It's not here!

10. CAPTION (XANADU): Then I met a magician named John Zatara. John taught me that it was never too late to choose a life of rectitude.

PANEL THREE.
CLOSE ON Beth, turning and looking up – seeing something she hadn't seen a second ago – as if it wasn't there. A soft light shines on her – as if it just turned on – the glow of NEON SIGNS.

PANEL FOUR.
The newspaper down at her side now, as if she were stunned, Beth stands very small in the foreground, her back to us – she's looking over to a storefront – in the window a neon sign reads PSYCHIC READER – and another neon sign reads TAROT READINGS (under that) PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE. Another sign reads LIFE ADVISOR (Ivan, check out the reference we'll provide on MADAME XANADU'S PARLOR and update the storefront however you see fit – it should look mysterious and OPEN – beckoning this young woman to come inside.)

11. CAPTION (XANADU): He also taught me how to hide in plain sight

12. BETH: Oh.

PANEL FIVE.
SMALL PANEL. VERY CLOSE ON Beth's hand opening the door to go inside – a bell on it rings.

13. CAPTION (XANADU): I sit in this shop waiting for those in distress to find their way to me

PANEL SIX.
SMALL PANEL. VERY CLOSE ON the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE neon sign

14. CAPTION (XANADU): I see the tragedy in their futures.

PANEL SEVEN.
SMALL PANEL. The "FUTURE" word goes dark.

15. CAPTION (XANADU): And just as John did with me, I help them onto a different path

SFX: kzzt

PANEL EIGHT
CUT TO the interior of the shop. Beth walks in cautiously. there's all sorts of stereotypical psychic items there – Madame Xanadu hides in plain sight as an everyday "cheap" psychic, just like Zatanna hides as a stage magician.

16. CAPTION (XANADU): I sense this woman's desperation, though for some reason little else

17. CAPTION (XANADU): But if I'm able, I will help her

18. BETH: H-hello?

19. BETH: Are you OPEN?

20. MADAME XANADU (O/P): I'm ALWAYS open.

PAGE THREE.
PANEL ONE.

A WIDESCREEN PANEL ACROSS THE TOP OF THE PAGE

A VISION OF MANHATTAN BURN NG AND CRUMBLED – the harbor fi ed with the DEAD. The sky is ON FIRE – AS RED AS THE WATER. There is no sign of the Statue of L berty. Ivan th s should appear to be a vis on of our wor d after a horrific attack.

n the FOREGROUND are s lhouettes of SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN and BATMAN look ng at the wreckage.

1. CAPTION (XANADU): But it's not HERS.

2. SUPERMAN-L KE F GURE: There s nothing left to fight for.

3. WONDER WOMAN-LIKE F GURE: Yes, there is.

4. BATMAN-LIKE FIGURE: We have to escape. We have to save him.

5. CAPT ON (XANADU): I see the AFTERMATH of a GREAT WAR. And I see one word that defines it. TRINITY.

PANEL TWO.
CUT BACK TO Beth and Madame Xanadu. Xanadu holds her head a massive headache h ts her. Beth is worr ed, scared.

6. BETH: What's WRONG w th me?

7. CAPT ON (XANADU): What is the TR N TY WAR?

8. MADAME XANADU: The CARDS.

PANEL THREE.
Madame Xanadu turns to one of her cards. There seems to be some kind of mag cal crackle as she turns the cards – a fa nt h nt of electrica mag c. SFX: kzzt.

9. MADAME XANADU: The cards wil tell me WHO will START it and HOW I can stop them.

PANEL FOUR
CLOSE ON the first Tarot Card turned over -- it's of B LLY BATSON SHOUTING AND SHAZAM BEH ND HIM w th a L GHTN NG BOLT icon n the background. But t doesn t say Shazam at the bottom, it just says – THE BOY.

Ivan, the cards shou d look l ke o d-fashioned Tarot Cards – almost like flat woodprint versions of our characters when we see them.

SFX: fwap

10. CAPTION (XANADU): I have yet to meet h m, but I know who he s.

11. CAPT ON (XANADU): And how WRONGLY he was chosen.

PAGE TEN.
PANEL ONE
CUT BACK TO Madame Xanadu, her hands putting down the BATMAN Tarot Card – labe ed THE DETECT VE

SFX: fwap

PANEL TWO.
CUT TO the Watchtower – but It's ying battered on the coast of Rhode Island (where it was set down/crashed at the end of JUST CE LEAGUE #20). It's on a rocky coast in the c ty of Happy Harbor, Rhode Is and (which was the or gina ocat on of the Justice League cave in their first BRAVE & THE BOLD appearances). t's n ght.

BATMAN and CYBORG are examin ng the wreckage. The sate lite is HUGE, Ivan as wide as a bu ding, part a ly in the water. The waves crash ng up against t

1. BANNER: Happy Harbor, Rhode Is and

2. The remains of the Just ce League Watchtower

3. CYBORG: So someone hacks nto our system WITHOUT my knowing, shuts down our defenses and ets DESPERO in

4. CYBORG: While someone e se -- or maybe the same person -- breaks into the Batcave and steals a Kryptonite ring

5. CYBORG: A Kryptonite ring no one knew you had.

PANEL THREE.
CLOSER ON Cyborg and Batman. Cyborg looks over at Batman, who has a FLASHL GHT in h s hand as he looks through the wreckage

6. BATMAN: I have t for STUDY. V c

7. CYBORG: To see if you can come up w th a KRYPTON TE ANT DOTE for Superman?

8. CYBORG: That might fly with the rookies, Bruce, but not with me

PANEL FOUR.
We move to another area of the sate lite – Element Woman has turned herself nto a giant JACK to l ft up a sect on of the Watchtower so Firestorm and the Atom can salvage what they can. E ement Woman shou d look like Metamorpho when he changes – her face stretched over the wh te part – larger than l fe. There's a B G SM LE on Element Woman's face. F restorm is tossing debris over h s shoulder – zapp ng it w th a b ast from one finger and turn ng t into gas. The Atom is sma and go ng through debris

9. ATOM: Batman said to keep our eyes out for anything salvageab e from the trophy room. E ement Woman

10. F RESTORM: I can't be eve you stopped Despero al by yourse f, Atom

11. ELEMENT WOMAN: That is the COOLEST thing that's ever happened n the h story of happenings.

12. ATOM: Yeah, uh, beg nner's luck, I guess

PANEL FIVE
FLASHBACK to JUST CE LEAGUE #20 – the Atom looks up at MART AN MANHUNTER who s hunched over DESPERO'S body in the wrecked Watchtower. The Atom gazes over at Manhunter, he gazes back to her

13. MANHUNTER: Tel no one was here.

PANEL SIX.
CLOSER ON the Atom, gett ng a little nervous that they might suspect someth ng – she hides it by cal ing out as she moves through the wreckage

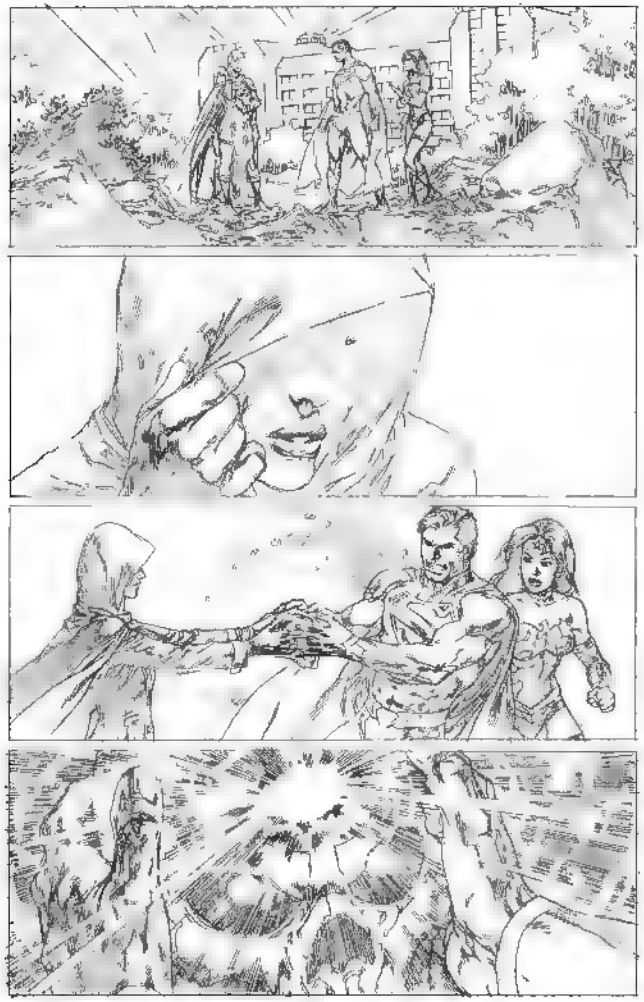
14. ATOM: HEY! I think I found something!

PANEL SEVEN.
A WIDESCREEN PANEL ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

She lifts up a p ece of debris and finds a trophy – it s a CHESS SET from the League s ong nal fight with DESPERO. The board is BLACK AND YELLOW CHECKERS. The pieces are y ng on the ground – they should look like the oversimpl fied ones from JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #1 (1960s). There's a chessboard and pieces. BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN, THE FLASH, AQUAMAN, GREEN LANTERN, CYBORG and MARTIAN MANHUNTER (in the New 52, this happened when he was on the team). The SUPERMAN p ece is MISS NG

The Atom is small, so the p eces should be big – almost as big as her

15. ATOM: It s a CHESS SET



PAGE ELEVEN.

PANEL ONE.
CUT BACK TO Superman, Pandora and Diana. Superman wa ks up to Pandora with Diana, who has put her sword down – not sensing a threat any longer

1. CAPTION (ATOM): " but the SUPERMAN piece is M,SSING "

2. SUPERMAN. Humans aren't ev l because someone opened a MAGIC BOX. Pandora. Whoever told you that--

3. PANDORA. No one TOLD me ANYTHING. I was THERE SAW the SEVEN SINS fly out nto the wor d

4. SUPERMAN. I can't have this conversation, Diana?

5. WONDER WOMAN. That's what happened, Superman. My mother to,d me the story. Someone TRICKED her nto opening the box

PANEL TWO.
CLOSE ON Pandora, the hood shadowing her face

6. PANDORA. But there's someone out there that can UNDO what I did. Someone that can OPEN this Box and IMPRISON sin once aga n.

7. PANDORA. We can FREE human ty from EV L. And I can be free from my CURSE.

PANEL THREE.
Pandora shoves the Box nto Superman s hands – Wonder Woman reaches out for h m. Superman recoils n pa n.

8. PANDORA. You ,ust need to open the Box. And f ANYONE can SURV VE its touch, t's SUPERMAN

9. SUPERMAN (DOUBLE BALLOON). AHH

PANEL FOUR
VERY VERY CLOSE ON the FACE OF PANDORA S BOX – THE THREE EYES

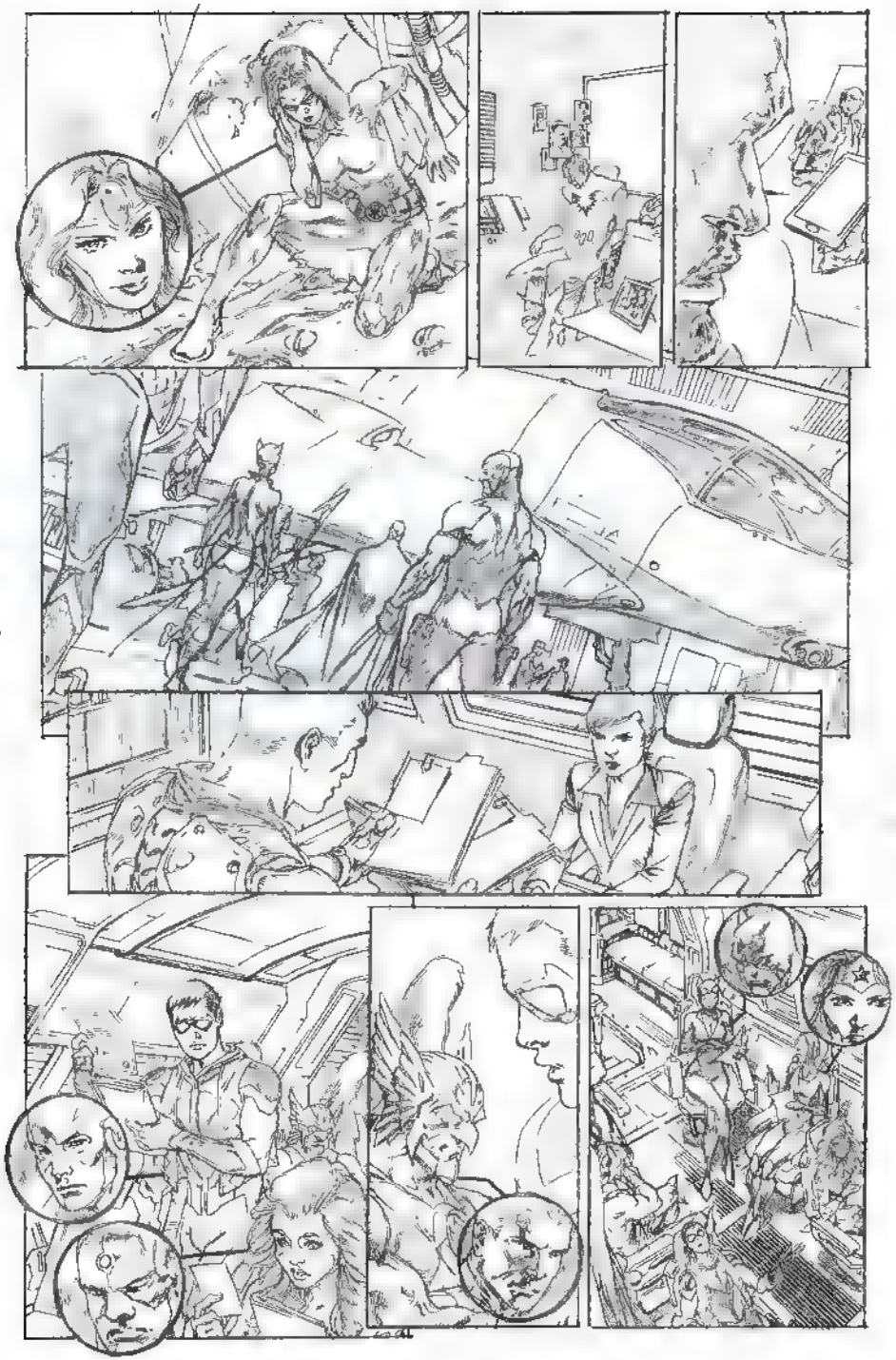
10. WONDER WOMAN (O/P) (DOUBLE BALLOON) Superman?

PAGE TWELVE.

SPLASH

A FULL F GURE SHOT of SUPERMAN. Superman touches the Box – and arches back in pain crying out. His suit goes BLACK. His skin goes PALE. A RED GLOW NG SPOT ON THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD – LIKE A TH RD EYE. His eyes g ow RED. RED AND BLACK LIGHTN NG EXPLODES FROM HIM

1. SUPERMAN (DOUBLE BALLOON). AAHHHH!



PAGE FIFTEEN.

PANEL ONE.
CUT TO the Atom, very small – hidden among the debris of the Justice League Watchtower. She speaks, a finger at her ear as she activates her JLA com in her mask. There is a little INSET panel of ELEMENT WOMAN that points to her. (These inset panels are described in greater detail in panel six on this page.)

1. CAPTION (BATMAN): "We're already making a call."

2. ATOM: YES! We're heading into Kahndaq right now, Colonel Trevor.

3. ATOM: What do I do?

PANEL TWO.
CUT BACK TO a sad Doctor Light in his office, his helmet still off and on his desk. He sits in the dark, his head hung low – hands holding it up. He has no one to talk to anymore – he doesn't dare risk contacting his wife about this again.

4. WALLER (ELECTRIC - DISEMBODIED): Doctor Light.

PANEL THREE.
Doctor Light looks over at a JLA COMMUNICATOR (like an iPhone) sitting on his desk by the Firestorm Ronnie and Jason pictures – beyond it his family photo.

5. WALLER/JLA COMMUNICATOR (ELECTRIC): Get your helmet strapped on and get to the Jet.

PANEL FOUR.
CUT TO the hangar where the Justice League of America keep their INVISIBLE JET, which is a huge military plane that can "cloak" itself invisible.

MARTIAN MANHUNTER leads the Justice League of America to the plane – HAWKMAN, KATANA, CATWOMAN, STARGIRL, VIBE and GREEN LANTERN/SIMON BAZ.

There are ARGUS Agents working on the plane.

6. CAPTION (WALLER): "The Justice League is heading into Kahndaq."

7. CAPTION (WALLER): "Your job is to get them OUT by ANY means possible."

8. CAPTION: The JLA's Invisible Jet.

PANEL FIVE.
CUT TO Steve and Waller in Waller's office. Steve is geared up, files of the JUSTICE LEAGUE – including the headshots – in his hands. He's going to pass them to the various members.

9. STEVE: They aren't READY for this, Waller.

10. WALLER: This is an OPPORTUNITY we might not get again, Steve.

11. WALLER: This is our chance to go shine a SPOTLIGHT on how UNCONTROLLABLE the Justice League is.

PANEL SIX.
Moving across Vibe who takes a seat with the other Leaguers, sitting next to Stargirl. Vibe is flipping through the Flash file. (I can't I'm thinking maybe each member – as we cycle through – has a little square inset panel by them with a line to them – in this panel Vibe would have a little square inset panel of THE FLASH while Stargirl would have a little square inset panel of CYBORG – these would be the same HEADSHOT panels as seen in pages 8/9. Only the JUSTICE LEAGUE have inset square panels, the JLA are in panel.)

12. CAPTION (WALLER): "—and how the JLA is the only team the world can TRUST."

13. VIBE: This is like defcon NEGATIVE ELEVEN, Stargirl.

14. VIBE: Colonel Trevor handed me a FOLDER on THE FLASH and said he was my TARGET. This is CRAZY.

15. STARGIRL: What can I do against Cyborg?

PANEL SEVEN.
Vibe looks over at Hawkman, who is reading Aquaman's file. (And like the above, there's a little inset square panel of AQUAMAN with a line to Hawkman.)

16. VIBE: You got AQUAMAN? You don't, uh, you don't want to TRADE, do you, Hawkman?

17. HAWKMAN: NO.

18. HAWKMAN: But I'll take yours too if you don't think you can handle it.

PANEL EIGHT.
Catwoman is flipping through Batman's file – which to her is incomplete. Katana sitting next to her. (And like the above, we have a little square inset panel of BATMAN with a line to Catwoman and a little square inset panel of WONDER WOMAN with Katana.)

In the back, Vibe notices that the LIGHTS are getting dim.

19. CATWOMAN: Whatever they're doing, if Batman's involved, we should trust them.

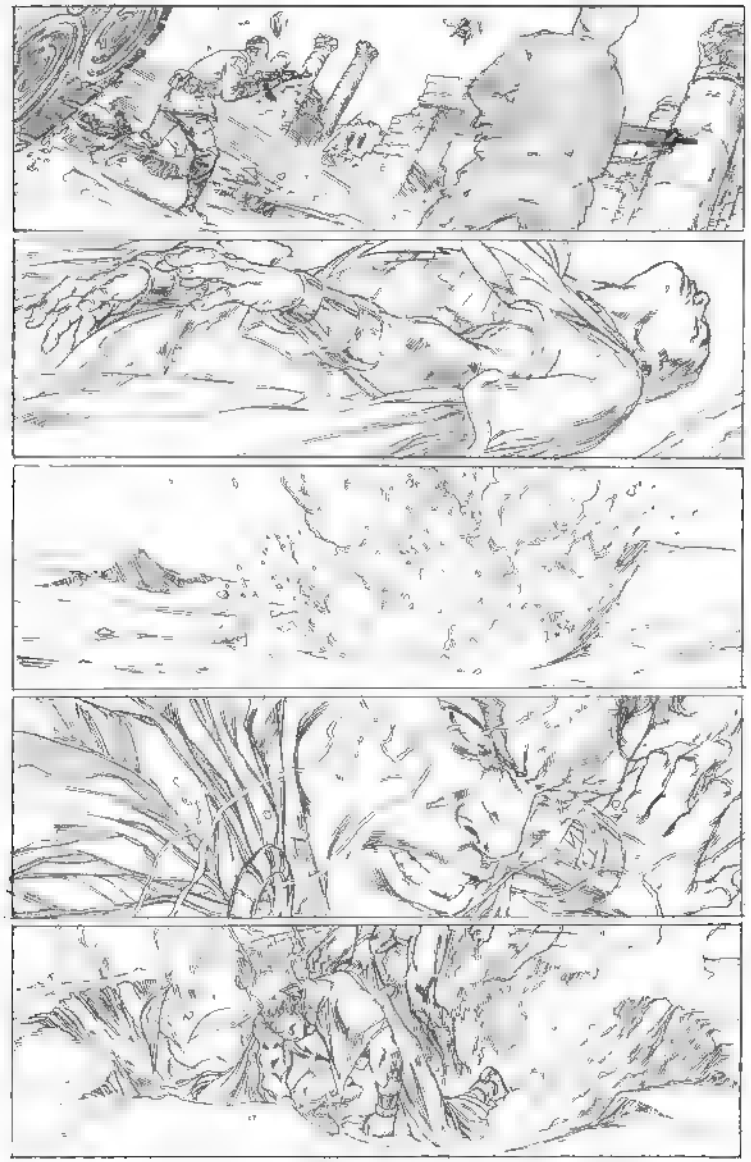
20. KATANA: Your personal investment is clouding your judgment, Catwoman.

21. CATWOMAN: Hey, worry about your own target, Katana.

22. CATWOMAN (SMALL): As if that matchup makes ANY sense.

23. VIBE: Hey, why's it getting DARK in here?

24. DOCTOR LIGHT (O/P): This is WRONG.



PAGE EIGHTEEN.

PANEL ONE.
But before Shazam can throw his punch he's h.t by something INCREDIBLY STRONG – a BLUR of RED, BLUE and a tiny bit of YELLOW – Superman, of course – hits him from left to right. Shazam goes flying. [NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL TWO.
An extreme longshot of Shazam flying through the air – into the desert.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL THREE.
Shazam lands like a BOMB in the desert. He hits a dune – sending most of it up into the air.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL FOUR
CLOSE ON Shazam gazing up, electricity in his eyes. He's not happy...

1. SHAZAM: Who's asking for a FIGHT?

PANEL FIVE.
Suddenly, something tugs on Shazam's cape.

2. SUPERMAN (O/P): No one wants one.

PAGE NINETEEN

PANEL ONE.

LARGE PANEL.
Shazam turns around and swings hard – SLAMMING his fist right into Superman, who is taken aback – and hurt by the MAGIC of it all. Electricity explodes all around.

1. SHAZAM: Then you shouldn't have STARTED it.

PANEL TWO.
Superman slides across the desert – like the space shuttle landing – kicking up sand.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL THREE.
CLOSE ON Shazam, realizing he just knocked down Superman – UH OH.

2. SHAZAM: SUPERMAN?

3. SHAZAM: I just knocked down Superman.

PANEL FOUR.
SAME EXACT PANEL AS ABOVE, but Shazam realizes HE JUST KNOCKED DOWN SUPERMAN. He smiles.

4. SHAZAM: JUST KNOCKED DOWN SUPERMAN.

PANEL FIVE
A WIDESCREEN PANEL ACROSS THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

A LONGSHOT of Superman flying from right to left and slamming into Shazam! There's an explosion of lightning! Wind kicks up the sand!

PAGE TWENTY-SIX.

SPLASH

We re stand ng beh nd The Quest on and gazing up at his crazy conspiracy theory board – but it s the ent re wall of the warehouse! ! He should be very small a ful figure shot The wa s fu l of mages and words tied together by strings.

Words from various newspaper articles form a large question on the top of the board:

WHO IS THE EVIL BEH ND THE EV L?

A l the str ngs point from various Post-its and photographs of cr me scenes, missing persons cases, etc. Some specifics are an mage of Pandora from the bleachers n JUSTICE LEAGJE #1 an image of THE PHANTOM STRANGER as seen batt ng THE SPECTRE n recent Phantom Stranger issues, an image of SUPERMAN and WONDER WOMAN k ssing as seen in JUSTICE LEAGJE OF AMER CA #1, an mage of AMANDA WALLER, an image of the screen from the end of JUST CE LEAGJE #18 with the skull & crossbones and HAVE A N CE DAY wr tten across it, a newspaper art c e that reads. STRANGE LIGHTS ABOVE THE K EL DER FOREST, a word made up of d fferent letters from various magazines and newspapers – S-U-P-E-R- V-I-L-L-A-I-N-S, a newspaper article that reads. DARKSEID NVADES with an mage of the JUSTICE LEAGUE fighting Parademons – AND FINALLY, THERE'S AN MAGE OF SUPERMAN N THE VERY CENTER OF THE COLLAGE – ALL THE STR NGS ARE POINTING TOWARD H M

1 THE QUESTION. WHO IS THE EV L BEHIND THE EVIL?

PAGES THIRTY AND THIRTY-ONE.

PANEL ONE.
BIG PANEL ACROSS THE TOP OF THE PAGE

The storefront of Madame Xanadu EXPLODES with ORANGE FIRE – the windows and door incinerated as the powerful flames and force shoot out of the storefront. A passerby is blown backwards.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL TWO.
CLOSE ON the Atom on the ground, pleading with everyone – fearful and almost in tears. But she's SO SMALL compared to the FEET STOMPING AROUND.

She's almost stepped on by HAWKMAN'S BOOT!

1. ATOM (DOUBLE BALLOON): STOP!

PANEL THREE.
BACK TO the aftermath of the explosion – flames dancing among the debris. The shop and a car outside still burning. Charred tarot cards fluttering down like leaves from a tree – some of them on fire.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL FOUR.
Back to panel two's fight, but we PULL BACK FURTHER from the Atom and see PARTS of our heroes fighting. Part of KATANA – Part of WONDER WOMAN. She continues to cry out – her voice being less and less heard.

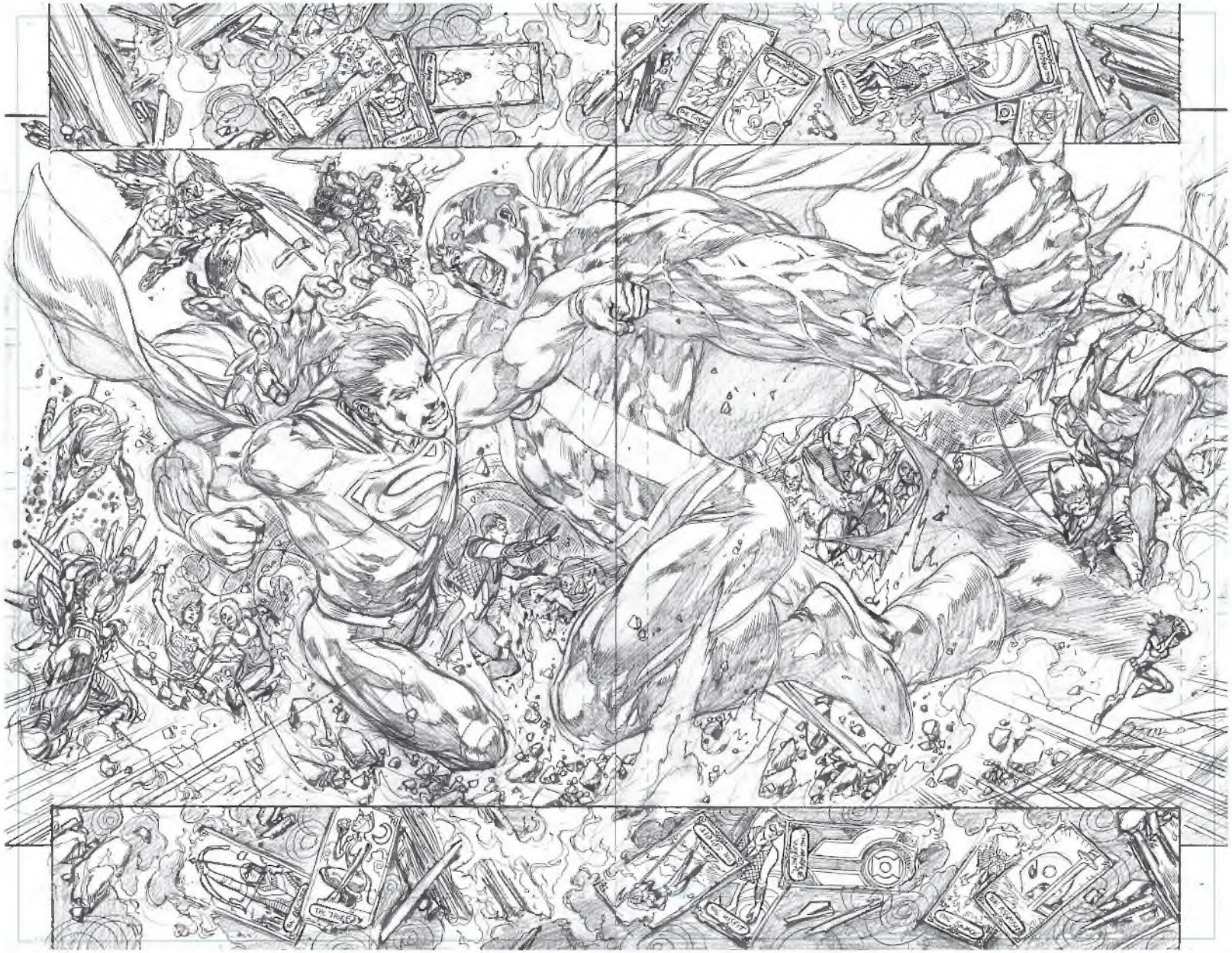
2. ATOM (SMALLER): Please stop!

PANEL FIVE.
BACK TO the aftermath of the explosion – three cards float down from above – THE TRINITY OF SIN! PANDORA – THE PAWN. THE QUESTION – THE UNKNOWN. And now THE PHANTOM STRANGER – labeled simply THE BETRAYER.

[NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL SIX.
And now the Atom is extremely small – her voice drowned out by the violence – we barely even see her. We now see MARTIAN MANHUNTER move past her. Again, it's a BLUR of BATTLE.

3. ATOM (EVEN SMALLER): Please!



PAGES THIRTY-TWO AND THIRTY-THREE.
PANEL ONE.
A VERY VERY THIN PANEL ACROSS THE TOP TWO PAGES

STRAIGHT DOWN ON SEVERAL OF THE OTHER TAROT CARDS SCATTERED IN THE STREET IN FRONT OF MADAME XANADU'S. Like the others, the pictures are labeled with not their name but a simple descriptor.

CYBORG – THE GRID.
FIRESTORM – THE PRISONER. (though the ER in PRISONER is partly burned/ripped)
THE ATOM – THE GAMEPLAYER.
ELEMENT WOMAN – THE FREAK.
THE FLASH – THE MESSENGER.
AQUAMAN – THE KING.
ZATANNA – THE MAGICIAN.

PANEL TWO.
A DOUBLE-PAGE SPREAD

MOST OF THE TWO PAGES!!!

CUT BACK TO the JUSTICE LEAGUE vs. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA – it's back on! And in the biggest way – in the main image here of the spread is SUPERMAN vs. MARTIAN MANHUNTER!

The other heroes start attacking their respective members – VIBE blasts THE FLASH – but misses, STARGIRL hits CYBORG, CATWOMAN leaps on BATMAN. [NO DIALOGUE.]

PANEL THREE.
JUST LIKE PANEL ONE – A VERY VERY THIN PANEL ACROSS THE BOTTOM.

STRAGHT DOWN ON SEVERAL OTHER TAROT CARDS SCATTERED IN THE STREET IN NEW YORK.

GREEN ARROW – THE ARCHER.
CATWOMAN – THE THIEF.
STARGIRL – THE SPIRIT.
SIMON BAZ/GREEN LANTERN – THE MIRACLE WORKER.
VIBE – THE MISFIT.
HAWKMAN – THE SAVAGE.
KATANA – THE ASSASSIN.

PAGE THIRTY-FOUR.
PANEL ONE.

MOST OF THE PAGE

We're on the street outside of Madame Xanadu's shop -- looking straight down at the burning debris and among them THREE TAROT CARDS. In the lower center is the card with DOCTOR LIGHT, which is now burned and charred, representing his death. We can read his descriptor underneath it: THE SACRIFICE.

Arching around it are three more cards. To the right of the Doctor Light card is - BATMAN - though it reads THE DETECTIVE - then above the Doctor Light card - SUPERMAN - though it reads THE HERO (though "HERO" has a BLACK SLASH through it) - and then to the right of the Doctor Light card - WONDER WOMAN - though it reads THE WARRIOR.

There are hints of the other cards of each character around them that we've seen throughout the issue.

1. CAPTION (NEWS): "...reports coming in now of an all-out WAR between the
JUSTICE LEAGUE and the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

2. CAPTION (NEWS): "...ONE CASUALTY already...I'm not sure I believe it...at the hands of SUPERMAN?

PANEL TWO.
CUT TO the Leader of the Secret Society sitting in his chair in his office as established in JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #2. He watches a televised report of the battle between the Justice Leagues.

3. NEWS (ELECTRIC): This can't be true.

4. LEADER: Ha.

PANEL THREE.
CLOSE ON the Leader's mouth and chin -- a slight smile on his pale skin. WHO IS HE?

5. LEADER: Thanks to ME, everyone will actually BELIEVE that Superman's KILLED Doctor Light.

PANEL FOUR.
And we finally end CLOSE on one of the cards - the silhouette of THE LEADER of the Secret Society with the hat and cane - and his descriptor reads: THE OUTSIDER. There are THREE STARS around the image in the sky -- signifying another trinity.

6. CAPTION (LEADER): "And by the time the Justice League figures out what I'm up to, the WORLD will already belong to US."

A BLACK BAR FOR THE CREDITS ALONG THE BOTTOM

TITLE: TRINITY WAR: CHAPTER ONE TITLE:
THE DEATH CARD
WRITER: Geoff Johns
PENCILS: Ivan Reis
INKS: Joe Prado
COLORS: Rod Reis
LETTERS: DC Lettering
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Kate Stewart
SENIOR EDITOR: Brian Cunningham

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